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China

Charles Denby

October 1, 1891
~~May 31, 1892~~

1394 – ~~1537~~
1601

April 30

W Knickbocker

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
NOV 10 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
NOV 10 1891

No 1394.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 1st, 1891.

— Mr Charles Denby —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing statement of
salary account for quarter
ended 30th September 1891.

No 1394. one enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a statement
1394. of my salary account for the quarter ended September 30th, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

Mr. Kieckhoefer

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 10 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
NOV 10 1891

Separate.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 1st, 1891.

— Mr. F. D. Cheshire —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing Salary Account for Quarter ended September 30th, 1891.

Separate.   One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a statement of my salary account for the quarter ended September 30th, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
F. D. Cheshire.

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

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Mr. Kueckhoefer

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 10 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 10 1891

No 1393.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject —
Enclosing Rent Account
for Quarter ending September
30th, 1891.

No. 1395. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a statement 1395. of the Rent Account of this Legation for the quarter ended September 30th, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

Mr Randolph

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 10 1891
RECEIVED.

[illegible]

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 10 1891

No 1396.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing Statement of Passports for Quarter ending September 30th, 1891.

No 1396. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a statement of the Passports issued at this Legation during the quarter ended the 30th of September 1891. 1396.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 10 1891
RECEIVED.

To ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
NOV 11 1891

No 1397.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 2nd 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 11 1891

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Smuggling of arms into China.

Synopsis
Encloses translation of communication of Yamên on the subject.

One enclosure.

No. 1397.

Legation of the United States.
Peking October 2nd 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

1/1397 I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication from the Foreign Office, relating mainly to a recent case of smuggling arms into China by an employee of the Imperial Maritime Customs. It appears that this man, Cyrus W. Mason, had formed a plot with the Ko Lao Hui, a secret society, to cause an insurrection and the arms were intended to be used by this society. It is stated that some of the members of the society were pretended servants of Mason.

Mason has been arrested and will be tried under British law. The Orders in Council of Great Britain provide for the punishment of this class of offenders.

This affair having occurred during a period of unprecedented rioting has attracted great attention. It is exceedingly unfortunate that any foreigner should have been connected with a scheme to overthrow the government.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure.

1. The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby

No 33 Sept. 26th 1891.

Enclosure in No. 1397.

Copy.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. 33. September 26th 1891.

Your Excellency:

During the present year there have been a good many missionary cases in the valley of the Yangtze and it is apparent that there is collusion amongst the banditti. The local authorities have frequently received strenuous instructions to apprehend the leaders of the riots and punish them with the utmost rigor of the law. This has already been communicated to the Minister of the United States and is a matter of record. The cases that occurred at Wuhu, Tan Yang, Ju-kao, Chin Kuei and Wu Hsüeh, have in their turn been taken up and a settlement decided upon.

All of a sudden, however, a riot occurs at Ichang where missionary property is destroyed by fire. The people and Christians are not at peace, the result of rumors that have been circulated broadcast by the outlaws - acts that have caused a feeling of the greatest indignation and are to be very much deplored. The Prince and Ministers would remark that they have been placed in receipt of a telegram from the Minister Superintendent of Southern Trade as follows:

"On the 12th of Sept., the
"Customs authorities at Shanghai
"discovered that an Englishman
"named Wei Ting (Mason) had
"secretly imported 35 cases of fire-
"arms. On the next day the Customs
"authorities at Chinkiang found
"5 pounds of dynamite in Mr.
"Mason's possession. Mr. Mason
"stated that an Englishman called
"Ai Ssu-mei is at Hongkong
"acting as an agent for the sedition

"society, or societies, at Chinkiang
"in the purchase of munitions of
"war; that a British subject,
"styled Tai Shan (?), formerly in
"the employ of the China Merchants
"Steam Navigation Company, was
"the principle leader of the banditti
"and at present is residing in
"Honkew, Shanghai. Further, the
"Shanghai Customs have ascertained
"that there are six foreigners who
"are assisting the outlaws — all
"of whom are also residing in
"Hongkew, Shanghai."

The Prince and Ministers would state that at the present time, when peace and quiet have not been restored as the result of the missionary cases, and the minds of the people are in a state of doubt and fear, this unexpected affair suddenly transpires, concerns and affects the general and important interests of both China and foreign Powers alike.

Now besides despatching gunboats at various stations along the Yangtze, with orders that the utmost diligence be exercised to give due protection, and having telegraphed to the Minister Superintendent of Southern Trade to cause the arrest of the banditti and deal with them, as in duty bound the Prince and Ministers address the Minister of the United States requesting that he will instruct the Consul at Shanghai to notify American merchants resident at that port that they should mutually act together in ascertaining all the information they can and, if there are any reports, the Consul should at once address the Taotai of Shanghai so that he may take precautionary measures to insure against further trouble.

A necessary communication etc, etc.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 18 1891
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File. aaa
NOV 19 1891

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 20 1891

No 1398.

Legation of the United States.

Peking October 5th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The troubles at Chi-ning Cho

Synopsis

There is a probability that they will be satisfactorily arranged.

No. 1398.

Legation of the United States.
Peking October 5th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report to you that Rev. Gilbert Reid has written to me that there is likelihood of settling the recent troubles at Chi-ning Chou.

I reported to you in my despatch No. 1261, of March 10th last, that certain American missionaries had been driven out of that place. Mr. Reid now informs me that he has been deputized by the Governor of Shantung to go to Chi-ning Chou and to confer with the Taotai and come to an understanding as to what shall be done. He thinks that his mission will be successful. I have requested the Yamên to direct the local officials to treat with Mr. Reid and to render him all necessary assistance.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 18 1891
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack and approve.
aaa
NOV 19 1891

✓ 25 Nov

No 1399.

Legation of the United States.

Peking October 5th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

The Chi-nan Fu troubles

Synopsis

Encloses copy of a recent communication to the Yamên

One enclosure.

No 1399.

Legation of the United States.
Peking October 5th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No 1380, of the 31st August last, I sent you a translation of a communication of the Foreign Office to me relating to the Chinanfu troubles.

Having obtained from Rev. Gilbert Reid more specific information as to the condition of affairs at that city, I sent to the Yamen, the first instant, a communication of which I enclose a copy. I therein briefly recite the steps that have been taken in this troublesome affair and I urgently ask that stringent orders be sent to the local officials that the missionaries be allowed to hold, occupy and build on the lot in the east suburb which they bought last March.

1/1399

I have the honor to be.

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure.

1. Mr. Denby to Yamen No. 35, Oct 1st 1891.

Enclosure in No. 1399.

Mr. Denby to the Foreign Office.

No. 35. Oct. 1st 1891.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

In reply to your communication of Aug 25th, relating to the Chi-nan Fu troubles, I beg leave to make a full statement in brief of the case, as it seems to me that it is not properly understood.

In the autumn of 1887, with the consent of the officials the American Mission leased a house of Mr. Lin Meng Kuei; opposition on the part of some persons arising, the officials desired the missionaries to consent to an exchange. The missionaries consented provided a suitable exchange could be made.

In the winter of 1888, Robt. Coltman purchased a piece of land a few li from the west suburbs. The Taotai asked the mission to take the land in the country as an exchange for the property in the south suburb, but the mission refused to do so as the cases were distinct.

The deed to the country land was stamped, the other case remained unsettled. Later on the mission consented to give up the property in the country and continued to press it's desire for a suitable piece of property in the suburbs. On the 14th of February of the present year, the Taotai wrote to the mission in regard to finding an exchange in the suburbs. This was done in obedience to the orders of Your Highness and Your Excellencies.

That there was no difficulty in procuring land in the east suburb was shown by the fact that a man named Tu leased to the mission a piece of land in that suburb. This is the land in question.

When the purchase thereof was reported to the Taotai, the missionaries stated that they would be willing to let all other matters be regarded as settled provided they were allowed to retain possession of this piece of land lying in the eastern suburb.

But opposition on the part of a few persons has again arisen. The missionaries are willing to grant another exchange if suitable land be furnished them. There is now no sign of an exchange being made. The missionaries have occupied this land for eight months. They have raised a crop on it. I urgently ask that Your Highness and Your Excellencies will issue stringent orders that the missionaries be allowed to hold, occupy and build on the lot in the east suburb without let or hindrance from anyone.

If this is not done the whole Chinan Fu question will be opened up again and four years discussion will go for naught.

I have etc, etc.

(Sg'd) Charles Denby.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 18 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 20 1891

No 1400. Mr Kieckhoefer

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 7th, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —
Enclosing Telegram Account from September 10th to September 15th, 1891.

No. 1400. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 7th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of the Telegram Account of this Legation from September 10th to September 15th, 1891.

1/1400.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 30 1891

Separate. Mittrickhoefer

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 9th, 1891.

— Mr. F. D. Cheshire —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing Accounts for loss by Exchange for Quarters ending June 30th and September 30th 1891.

Two Enclosures.

Separate. Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 9th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a statement of my account for loss by Exchange for the quarter ending June 30th, 1891, and also for the quarter ending September 30th 1891. The former I inadvertently omitted to send forward at an earlier date.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your obedient Servant
F. D. Cheshire

Enclosures 2. Statements as above.

NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ans. ofs AAA
DEC 4 1891

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
DEC 4 1891

No 1401.

Legation of the United States.

Peking October 10th 1891.

Ackd 7th Dec. 91.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Extradition in China

Synopsis

Can a consul deliver up a fugitive from justice found aboard an American ship in an open treaty port in China.

No 1401.

Legation of the United States.
Peking October 10th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I consider it desirable that you should instruct me as to a question of extradition which has never been determined by the Department and is not treated in the recent excellent work on extradition by Hon. John Bassett Moore. In Section

109, page 140, Vol I, and Section 89 page 100, same vol., this author holds that the consuls in China have not the power of extradition from their territorial consular districts.

The question that I present is whether a consul can direct an absconding criminal, found on an American ship in a Chinese port, to be delivered up to a nation with which we have an extradition treaty?

It is familiar law that merchant vessels on the high seas are constructively regarded as a part of the territory of the nation to which they belong. See Section 104, page 135, Vol I of the book cited. This principle as between Great Britain and the United States has been extended so as to make the flag the test of jurisdiction in the ports of eastern countries where exterritoriality prevails.

In exceptional cases, the judicial authority of consuls over persons serving on American vessels, in China and Japan, has been construed as authorizing consular officers to assume jurisdiction where offenses are committed on shore by foreigners serving on board American merchant vessels. See Treaties 1776-1887 p. 1284.

If, then, an American ship

lying in a Chinese port is thus, to all intents and purposes, held to be American territory, can a consul exercise the right of extradition as to a person aboard thereof, where a proper case arises?

I fear that the answer may be that he cannot, because no United States' statute vests this power in him, and the regulations in force for the consular courts are silent on the subject. The difficulty then would have to be met by an Act of Congress or, if that be possible, by a new regulation decreed by the Minister.

I respectfully call your attention to my despatch No

906 June

944 of August 8th 1889, in which the identical case mentioned is reported. A convict escaped from the Manilla penitentiary and embarked on an American ship bound for Amoy. As we have an extradition treaty with Spain, I directed the consul to surrender him to the Spanish authorities upon proper proof being made. The man escaped before arrest and nothing was done.

The Department simply acknowledged my despatch and made no comment thereon, The recent riots in China and the

Erroneous refer
No 944 reports t
case of an Ameri
who committed
an offence on a
British vessel ly
in a treaty port
and was tried
by the British
Court. — AA

the smuggling of arms by a foreigner for insurrectionary purposes, and rumors wide-spread that foreigners were about to seize the Foochow arsenal — which are without foundation — have directed my attention again to this question of extradition, among other questions touching the criminal jurisdiction of the consuls.

I would be glad if you would authoritatively settle the question now presented, as grave results might ensue from wrongful instructions to the consul by this Legation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1407

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Copy to the Secy of the Navy
Ack by subject & file. AA
DEC 1 1891

To Navy 3 Dec
and 3 Dec

DIPLOMATIC
DEC 1 1891

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 12th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

The causes of the recent riots considered.

Synopsis

Certain causes stated and some observations on the question whether the government is sincere in it's professed antagonism to the riots.

No. 1402.

Legation of the United States.
Peking October 12th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

It is too early to give an authoritative opinion as to the causes of the recent riots in China. The trial of C. W. Mason, who is under indictment in the British Courts for introducing dynamite into China with felonious intent,(1) may result in important developments.

Still, as erroneous statements

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(1) Since writing this despatch I learn that Mason was indicted for transporting concealed dynamite on an English ship.

are being largely circulated in the newspapers of all countries, I deem it proper to express some views on the recent disturbances.

Charges, that so frequently appear, that the Viceroy of Chihli, Li Hungchang, was concerned in these riots are absolutely without foundation. He is entirely loyal to the Throne, and he is too wise to undertake the impossible feat of driving the foreigners out of China.

Three prominent considerations entered into causes which produced the riots:

1° The desire of the Ko-lao Hui (Society) to embarrass the government.

2° Antagonism to missionaries and especially to orphan asylums.

3° Antagonism to foreigners.

To these may be added a special cause of discontent — the navigation of the Yangtze by foreign vessels propelled by steam.

The concession of this unusual privelege has always been bitterly denounced by the junk owners and laborers living in the valley of the Yangtze.

The objects of the great Ko-lao Hui (Society) are said to be the overthrow of this dynasty and the removal of foreigners from China. The common people of China, in the general, if let alone by conspirators against the public peace, would not engage in riots. They are peaceful, have little to do with politics, and all their time is occupied by the struggle for sustenance. To them the missionaries bring substantial aid in the way of supplying food, clothes, medical and surgical assistance. Nevertheless, owing to the intense superstition of the masses, they are easily influenced to commit outrages. Suffering, drought, famine are all predisposing causes to sudden emeutes.

The poverty of the masses in China is inconceivable in other countries.

There have been during my stay in China several anti-foreign riots. They were isolated outbreaks having some local cause. Either there was some difficulty growing out of alleged wrongful action by the Sikh policemen, as at Chinkiang, or charges that children had been kidnapped by foreigners or an alleged violation by foreigners of the rules governing feng shui, geomantic superstitions, as at Chungking in 1886.

It must be said, however, that no well defined local cause produced the late riots. They took place in localities noted for former peacefulness. It is evident that they were secretly and systematically organized beforehand, and they came upon the communities, in most cases, without the least premonition.

To these circumstances must be attributed the gravity of the situation. Sudden riots occur in all countries, but when riots, day after day, proceed on a given direction, as these riots did up the Yangtze, and break out in great cities which are garrisoned by troops and controled by high officials, it is apparent that behind the rioters are leaders and men drilled and prepared for the work of destruction. These leaders are, without doubt, members of the Ko-lao Hui (Society). On this account China appeals to the world for sympathy in her troubles representing that the machinations which result in injuries to foreigners are really directed against her own government.

If the governing classes, the literati and gentry, which are most interested in the preservation of the government and most loyal to it, were opposed to anti-foreign riots this appeal would have some basis, but such is not the fact.

The riots have been rather anti-foreign than anti-missionary, though in certain localities prejudices against missionaries have been appealed to.

Whatever the causes of the riots may be the onus is thrown on China to demonstrate now that she has entered in good faith into the family of nations and is honestly trying to discharge her international duties.

I differ with many writers as to the alleged violent antagonism existing among the pure Chinese against the

Manchus. This subject has often been discussed by men who appear to be entirely familiar with it. The general opinion is that the Chinese are as patriotic as people usually are, and no discontent exists against the Throne on account of it's being occupied by a descendant of the Manchus.

It must be said also that there is less feeling of nationality in China than elsewhere. Family clans control the smallest village and the feeling of clannishness spreads from the village to the province. The Cantonese would drive out from Canton laborers who went thither from any other province as quickly as they would drive out foreigners. This is true of all parts of China.

There is great variation in the spoken language, so that in some parts of China people of different provinces cannot understand each other. The written language binds them all together.

The more important question remains to be considered of the _bona fides_ of the Imperial Government in it's efforts to put down riots against foreigners: My belief is that if the alternative were presented to the Chinese government: shall there be riots or not, the answer would be no. The government desires peace. It dreads commotion. It fears the people. It is inclined, even, to the opinion that the foreign powers constitute, in some sense, a bulwark to the Throne, because the interests of commerce and missions are in the line of peace and tranquility. It does not for a moment imagine that foreigners will in any contingency whatever abandon China permanently.

Official utterances touching the riots have been all that can be desired. In spite, however, of proclamations, the work of destruction has gone on. Seeing that this autocratic government that is so wise in words is powerless in action, how is the want of taking strong and incisive steps to prevent riots to be reconciled with a real desire that there should be no riots?

The answer is to be found in the fear of the masses, in the dread of an uprisal and, perhaps, in a lurking sentiment that the people are ignorant and irresponsible. It must be admitted that these excuses are utterly insufficient. China thinks, also, that, if heavy damages are promptly paid, every injury will be condoned.

The foreign representatives have been forced to adopt the view that the government is either insincere in it's protestations of goodwill to foreigners, or unable to control it's own people. They take things as they are and judge by results, not words. When we find that at no city on the Yangtze has the mob even been fired on by police or soldiers, we must conclude that proper steps for protection have not been taken.

We are furnished nearly every day with actual proof that any commotion against the government is put down by the soldiery. We demand that the same firm course shall be pursued where foreigners are the objects of violence. Practically it little matters whether China is unwilling, or unable, to adopt and execute vigorous measures of protection. If the foreigner is not protected by the Chinese government he will, no doubt, be protected by his own government.

Sensational statements that some of the foreign powers are actuated, in their policy toward China, by a desire to seize certain portions of her territory, are not warranted by any information to be obtained in Peking. The representatives of the powers are all necessarily acting together in the general purpose to secure protection to all foreigners. On this subject the treaty provisions are identical.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1403.

One copy Treas Dept Nov. 30.

One copy to Treasury Nov. 30 '91

Ackd 3rd Feb.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 15th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Forwards Customs Medical Report.

No 1403.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 15th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have forwarded, under separate cover, to the Department of State duplicate copies of the Imperial Maritime Customs Medical Reports, for the half-year ended March 1889.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMAT
NOV

No 1404. Ackd by no Feb

Legation of the United States.

Peking October 19th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Acknowledging telegram.

No. 1404.

Legation of the United States.
Peking October 19th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 16th inst, as follows:

"Not desirable to leave
"Peking to sit with Consul
"Seymour."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Copy to Secy of the Navy
Ack. by Number and File.
DEC 1 1891

To navy 3 Dec
ack'd 3 Dec.

No 1405.

Legation of the United States.
Peking October 19th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Anti-foreign riots in China

Synopsis

Encloses a memorial from the Southern Superintendent of Trade and the Governor of Kiangsu, Liu Kun-yi. Comments thereon showing practical failure to take energetic measures to protect foreigners.

One enclosure

No 1405.

Legation of the United States.
Peking October 19th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of an important memorial transmitted to the Throne by the Southern Superintendent of Trade, Liu Kun-yi, and the Governor of Kiangsu, Kang Yi, relating to the recent riots. 1/1405

These two high officials show that they are acting in accordance with the humane and wise teachings of the late imperial edict. Nothing could be better than the language used in this memorial. Judging these eminent officials by their written words they would be entitled to the highest commendation for their out-spoken condemnation of the leaders of the recent riots and their unstinted praise of foreign missionaries. They boldly assert that the foreign missionaries are acting in their treaty rights and "are evincing their devoted philanthropy."

The weak point is that

they admit that none of the promoters of the recent outrages have been captured. They say that "all the criminals who "had been arrested were found "on examination to have been "merely sympathizers present "at the occurrence" of the riots. Meantime the obscene and libellous placards with which China is being flooded are published under the noses of these very officials. It is said that at Hangchow lying and malicious pamphlets were delivered to each student as he left the examination hall. While it must be admitted that any decent argument in favor of Buddhism or Taoism, or any other native religion, as against the doctrines of Christianity may be lawfully published and distributed in China, still, in the interest of public peace, the foreign representatives are compelled to demand that the printing and distribution of vile incendiary placards and pamphlets must be prevented by the government.

The missionaries living in the interior of the provinces controlled by the memorialists have been advised to come to the treaty ports for protection.

The issuance of such papers as the enclosure cannot be taken as a compliance by China with her treaty obligations. While as a literary production it is unobjectionable, still the foreign powers have a right to demand acts instead of mere words.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure:
Memorial as above clipped from the North China Daily News of Oct. 10th 1891.

Enclosure in No. 1405

Clipping fr. N-C. D. N. Oct 10th 1891.

THE NANKING MEMORIAL.

The following memorial on the subject of the recent riots in these provinces appears in the *Peking Gazette* of 23rd September:—

H.E. the Southern Superintendent of Trade, Liu K'un-yi, and the Governor of Kiangsu, Kang Yi, submit a memorial in which they report the action that has been taken for the settlement of the various missionary cases which have occurred in the Prefecture of Chinkiang and in other departments of the province of Kiangsu. During the fourth moon of the present year, in consequence of the dissemination of lying rumours, the missionary premises at Wuhu were burnt down, and then followed in close succession the burning and destruction of missionary property at Tanyang, Chinkuei, Wusieh, Yanghu, Kiangyin and Jukao. Officers were deputed to hold an investigation, and although the facts elicited showed that the rioting was more serious in some places than in others, the leading feature everywhere was the fabrication of baseless rumours by scoundrels lurking in concealment, who incited the populace to riotous proceedings, their object being to take advantage of the occasion to commit incendiarism and pillage and so cause a catastrophe of the gravest moment. In the various other districts of the province false rumours were subsequently widely circulated and anonymous placards made their appearance. The memorialists beg to observe that foreign missionaries, in establishing churches in China for the propagation of their faith, are acting within their Treaty rights, and that in carrying on at the same time foundling institutions and charity schools, they are doing nothing but evincing their devoted philanthropy. If scoundrels who have the audacity gratuitously to fabricate false rumours and spread trouble in such a reckless manner are not arrested and sharply dealt with as a means of allaying the popular suspicion, not only will harmony fail to be maintained between the ordinary people and the adherents of the foreign doctrines, but great harm will befal the country. On receiving the reports of what had happened, the memorialists caused stringent instructions to be issued to all their subordinate authorities impressing upon them the absolute necessity of using their most earnest endeavours to protect the missionary establishments within their respective jurisdictions, and at the same time directing them to arrest and punish severely according to law all criminal characters found circulating false rumours or causing disturbance. The Viceroy issued several proclamations inculcating earnest advice, and ordered his subordinates everywhere to summon together the local gentry and ask them to impress upon the people in their respective districts the necessity of maintaining a prudent attitude, and of not, on any account, creating a feeling of groundless alarm by lightly giving ear to false rumours. The various district officers concerned are assuredly deserving of punishment for their failure to take adequate precautions beforehand. The troubles in the Soochow district began with the Tanyang riot and the Magistrate, Ch'a Wên-ch'ing, has accordingly been denounced and cashiered. The acting Magistrate of Wusieh, Liu Shu-jên, the acting Magistrate of Kiangyin, Sun Yi-shên, the Magistrate of Yanghu, Yeh-huai-shan, and T'angyo, the Magistrate of Chinkuei, have all been deprived of their buttons. Mo Ping-ch'i, the officer temporarily in charge of the Jukao district, who had only been three days at his post, has had a mark of disapproval placed against his name, and the responsible military authorities have been stripped of their buttons by way of warning and punishment. On the receipt of the Imperial Edict of the 13th June, the memorialists again issued proclamations in clear and explicit language for general information. The doings of these ruffians who manufacture false rumours for the purpose of creating trouble are so secret and mysterious, and their movements so perplexingly uncertain that their apprehension becomes a matter of considerable difficulty. The Viceroy has again sent secret agents in all directions to make inquiries, and has ordered the district officers to exercise *surveillance* over the tithing system, with the result that peace and quiet have prevailed during the past few months. The memorialists venture to think that the first essential in the way of remedial measures is that a good understanding should be effected between the ordinary people and the adherents of the foreign creed. In arresting and dealing with the offenders, it is absolutely necessary, in order to satisfy public opinion and to restore harmony between the Christian and non-Christian portions of the population, that the really guilty should be punished and that the punishment should be commensurate with the offence. From the successive reports received from the various district officers it appeared that all the criminals who had been arrested were found on examination to have been merely sympathisers present at the occurrence. The district officials were consequently ordered to act in concert with the deputies appointed for the purpose in having them again rigorously examined under torture, but without shaking their previous testimony. They have now been sentenced, according to their respective degrees of guilt and under the severest clause of the law applicable in each case, to various forms of banishment in the *chun*, *liu*, and *t'u* grades, or to bambooing. To wait until the value of the property destroyed and lost could be recovered from the culprits could not fail to entail an unreasonable delay and would not prove comforting to the missionaries. The Taotai at Chinkiang, Huang Tsu-lo, was accordingly directed to call upon the authorities concerned to provide the requisite funds and to arrive at a settlement of their respective claims with the Missionaries. The Taotais and Prefects responsible in the matter again received stringent instructions directing them to enjoin upon all their subordinates the necessity of securing without fail the apprehension and punishment of the principal offenders so that the earnest desire of the Imperial Court to cultivate friendly relations with other Powers and to maintain peace and good order within its own territory may be duly fulfilled. The memorialists have kept the Tsungli Yamên informed of the steps they have taken in the matter, and they now beg to submit to the sacred glance this account of the settlement of the missionary questions in Kiangsu and to solicit His Majesty's commands on the subject.—*Rescript: Let active measures be taken for arresting the criminals who made their escape. They must positively be apprehended and punished. The Yamên concerned is to take note.*

NAVY DEP'T. 4 ENCLOSURE 1891 397

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Copy to Interstate Commerce Commission.
Ack. by subject & file.
DEC 1 1891
aa

V3 Dec-
3 Dec V
(original Enclosure sent to above)

No. 1406

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 19. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Railways in China

Synopsis
Mr. W. W. Pethick has been appointed Asst. Managing Director of the Chinese Railways. Rules issued by him inclosed.

No. 1406

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 19. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that a reorganization of the "Imperial Chinese Railway," and "China Railway Company," has taken place.

The head offices of the two lines have been consolidated and placed under a "Managing Director" and an Assisting Managing Director."

Mr. W. N. Pethick, who is an American, and Vice Consul at Tientsin, has been appointed "Assistant Managing Director" of both lines.

Mr. Pethick has accepted this position.

1/406 I enclose a copy of his first General Order.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One Enclosure
General Order No. 1
of the Imperial Chinese Railways.

Mr Rieckhoefer

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 30 1891

No 1407.

Legation of the United States.
Peking October 20th, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing Statement of Contingent Expenses account for Quarter ended September 30th, 1891.

No 1407 one enclosure

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 20th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a statement of my account for contingent Expenses for the quarter ended September 30th, 1891.

1/1407.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1 - Statement as above.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLO
NOV 30 1891

No. ackd to file

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 20. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Acknowledges despatches.

No. 1408

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 20. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as below:—

No. 646 of Augt. 19.
647 " " 20.
648 " Sept. 2.
649 " " 4.
650 " " 7.
651 " " 7.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

Sep. Mr Kieckhoefer

Legation of the United States.

Peking October 21st 1891.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Salary accounts.

Two enclosures.

Sep.

Legation of the United States.

Peking October 21st 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1 enclose, herewith, my salary account for the quarter ending Sept. 30th 1891, and my account

2 for loss by exchange thereon.

Against the salary account I have drawn my draft on Messrs Morton Rose & Co., in the usual manner. I have charged the loss by exchange against my exchange account, as the sum is too small for a separate draft.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Second Secretary.

Enclosures:

Accounts as above.

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quisition to Mr Griffin Nov 30.91

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

✓ ans'd dec

DIPLOMA
NOV 30 1891

No 1409.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 21st, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —
Indent for passport forms.

— — — — —

No 1409.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 21st, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to request that you will send this Legation a fresh supply of blank passports.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Copy to Secy of the Navy -
Ack by subject & file.
DEC 1 1891 A.A.A.

Navy (Dec 3)

No. 1410.

Legation of the United States.

Peking October 24th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Anti-foreign riots in China.

Synopsis

Copy of telegram enclosed reciting punishment of divers criminals.

No 1410.

Legation of the United States.
Peking October 24th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/1410 I have the honor to inform you that I have received from the Foreign Office a communication, relating to the recent riots, of which a copy is enclosed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure:
A note fr. the Foreign Office
Oct. 18th 1891.

Translated by
Ch. Denby Jr.
Second Secretary

Enclosure in No. 1410.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

Oct. 18th 1891.

Your Excellency:

This Yamên has recently received from the Southern Superintendent of Trade a telegram as follows:

"Kao-i, a member of an "unlawful secret society, "has been arrested and has testified under "examination that he had "solicited men to enter the "society and had issued "certificates of membership. "Tang Yü-ting, a leader in "the conspiracy to burn "chapels, admitted under "examination that many "people had become members "of the society. Hwang Taotai "also submits the testimony "of some of those engaged "in attacks on chapels "and orders have been "issued to him to execute "them on the spot and "expose their heads. Chiang "Kuei-fang and others, "who have already been "informed against and "who are in hiding, "have been enumerated "in notices which have "been sent to all the "provinces so that they "may be seized wherever "they may be. Three of "the criminals who at "Chin Kuei acted on the "instigation of others have "been arrested and have "been sentenced to wear "the k'ang."

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 28 1891
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DEC 1 1891

Ackd 3 Dec

No. 1411

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Octr. 24. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Anti-Foreign Riots in China.

Synopsis.

Minister encloses an abstract of the report of the Viceroy Chang Chi-tung on the riot at Wusüeh

No. 1411

Legation of the United States,

Peking, October 24. 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received from the Foreign Office, a copy of a very long memorial forwarded by Chang Chi-tung, the Viceroy of Hukuang, on the subject of the recent riots in the Province of Hupei at Wusüeh. I have thought that owing to its extreme length, an abstract thereof, would be more acceptable than the entire document. The Viceroy substantially makes the following statements:— After the riot at Wuhu in May last, great popular excitement existed in the whole valley of the Yangtze. He issued stringent instructions to the officials ordering them to adopt stringent measures of a precautionary nature. At Wusuih there was an English church but no foundling hospital. The natives and Foreigners had always got along well together. However, on the 5th June last, a native of the Kuang chi district, a Catholic, arrived at Wusueh carrying four children whom he said he was taking to the Catholic asylum at Kukiang. Some depraved villains seeing the man, imagined the incident to be a confirmation of the prevalent rumors, and in a moment, a turbulent crowd assembled. This crowd threw stones through the windows of the missionary premises with the result that a Kerosene lamp upset and a fire broke out, which destroyed all the buildings. Some property was stolen by the members of the crowd.

a

A native Customs Deputy and a sub-Prefect hastened to the scene of the riot to restore order, but they were stoned and driven away. Two of the missionaries connected with the English Chapel were absent but their families remained there. A British subject named Green, a Customs tidewaiter, and a British missionary named Argent attempted to put out the fire, and were killed by the mob. The ladies of the mission went first to the office of the Deputy Magistrate. He refused to let them enter his premises. They were afterwards escorted by some soldiers to the house of the sub-Prefect. The three ladies had been beaten and wounded. The Viceroy sent troops from Wuchang to Wusuëh to restore order. The Magistrate of Hueng chi proceeded to the scene and made many arrests. Ten prisoners were found to be the real culprits. A trial took place. The depositions of the members of the Wusuëh mission were taken at Hankow and forwarded to the court.

The evidence taken showed that the riot originated in the suspicions as to the conveyance of the children above mentioned. The disturbance was sudden and without warning. It had not any origin in the desire of plunder. An iron safe in the premises was untouched. Three men admitted that they had incited the riot and two of them that they had stabbed the missionary Argent. Two of them were immediately decapitated and their heads exposed by way of warning. The other prisoners were punished by bambooing, branding and banishment to various distances. The law was exactly followed in these sentences. The Magistrate who refused to allow the ladies to enter his premises has been ordered to be removed from office and deprived of his button. Measures have been taken to arrest offenders who are still at large. The Viceroy is to give to the families of Argent and Green $20,000 each. As the missionaries at Wusuih were in no wise to blame for the riot. The sum of $25,000 is to be paid as damages for all other injuries – making

$65,000

$65,000 in all to be paid. The settlement has been reported to the British Minister but no answer has been received. The Viceroy says that the riots in the Yangtze Valley mostly originated out of the practice of receiving and bringing up young children in Asylums. False rumors of bad treatment of these children circulate and all of a sudden there is a riot. The Consuls at Hankow were requested to direct the Missionaries to desist for a time from receiving young children into their establishments. Hereafter there are to be periodical inspections by officials and gentry of these asylums.

If compliance with such regulations is secured, there will be no future trouble. Rewards are to be offered for the arrest of all persons who put up incendiary placards. Two other cases affecting the English have been settled. This report "is reverently submitted to the sacred glance" by the Viceroy.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 1412 Ackd by [illegible] file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU,
DEC 11 1891

Legation of the United States,
Peking October 25. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
DEC 11 1891
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Acknowledges Despatches.

No. 1412
Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 25. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches Nos.
652 of September 9-, to
657 " " 14,
inclusive.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DIPLO[illegible]
DEC 12 1891

No. 1413
Legation of the United States,
Peking, Octr. 27. 1891.

✓ Ansd 14 dec

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
DEC 11 1891
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ans. sending Mr. Denby a copy of the message, making the reference to
DEC 12 1891
Chinese exhibitors –
aa

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The World's Columbian Exposition.

Synopsis.

Account of an interview had with the Yamên by Prof. Hitchcock, special commissioner.

No. 1413

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 27. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to inform you that I accompanied Prof. R. Hitchcock, special commissioner of the World's Columbian Exposition, to-day, to the Foreign Office, where he had an interview with three of the members of the Yamên which lasted nearly two hours. The Professor exhibited sundry pictures representing the proposed Exposition-buildings which were inspected with pleasure. He then read in English a very long paper which was translated into Chinese, by Dr. L. W. Pilcher, as he proceeded. This paper presented forcibly the usual arguments in favor of Expositions and especially the Columbian. The Ministers distinctly said in reply to direct questions that China would appropriate no money in aid of exhibitors, but would only take off the export duty on goods; nor would she appoint a Commissioner in the United States at this time. In spite of these declarations I assured the ministers that I should not cease to urge upon them the propriety and necessity of appropriating money in order to make a national exhibit, and of appointing a Commissioner. I have very little doubt that means will be found to enable China to make a creditable exhibition.

During the discussion allusion was made to the difficulty under which Chinese subjects labored in going to the United States. I stated that I did not propose to enter upon a discussion of that question at that time, but that I had every reason to believe that exhibitors, and the artisans accompanying them to be employed in matters connected with the exposition, would have no difficulty in entering the United States. Mr. Hitchcock has received his recall, to take effect November 1. proximo.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack and commend Mr. Denby's good offices.
DEC 12 1891 A.A.A.

15

No. 1414.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 11 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking October 27th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Audience granted by the Emperor to the Minister of Austria-Hungary.

Synopsis

Some confidentive statements made with reference thereto.

No 1414.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 27th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Baron de Biegeleben, Minister of Austria-Hungary to Japan and China, recently arrived at Peking for the purpose of presenting his letters of credence to the Emperor.

He applied for an audience which was promptly granted, the time being fixed for the 19th inst and the place of audience the Tzu Kuang Ko.

By reference to my despatch No 1260 of March 2nd 1891, it will be seen that the Foreign Representatives stipulated with the Foreign Office that future audiences should not be held in the Tzu Kuang Ko, but another hall should be provided. On reading this protocol the Minister of Austria refused to be received in the Tzu Kuang Ko.

It is believed that the agreement for another hall had never been brought to the attention of the Emperor or Empress Dowager.

The ministers of the Yamên were in serious trouble and had recourse to me for assistance.

I saw no reason why I should refuse to act as mutual friend on this occasion. I saw the Austrian Minister and explained the situation to him, assuring him that if he would on one pretext, or another, ask a few days delay without mentioning the Tzu Kuang Ko at all, the Yamên would arrange the matter satisfactorily.

After some discussion he agreed to represent that his health at that particular time was bad — which was true — and to ask a delay of a few days.

The scheme worked happily. The audience took place today in a hall named the Ch'eng Kuang Tien. This hall is in that part of the city of Peking enclosing the palace. It is on the east shore of the lake known as the Northern Sea a short distance north of the east end of the marble bridge. The Minister represents that it is suitable, convenient and proper for audiences and that his reception was courteous and in all respects satisfactory.

The members of the Yamên

and the Austrian Minister also are very grateful to me for my assistance in arranging a complication which promised to produce a serious breach between China and Austria-Hungary.

I was influenced in my action by a desire that China should not furnish a great scandal, which, reported in Europe, would have tended still further to incense the great powers against it, and which would have led to serious complications touching the question of future audiences.

I must further say that when the messenger of the

Yamēn

Yamên came to see me on the subject, I very strongly represented to him that the Austrian Minister was acting strictly in his right, that he could not be expected to ignore, or to waive, a solemn agreement made by the Foreign Office to furnish another hall for future audiences, and that I would have nothing to do with the matter unless I was distinctly and unequivocally assured that another hall would be furnished for his audience. Having had these assurances I undertook this negotiation.

I have marked all the parts of this despatch relating to my personal action with red ink as being confidential. At a meeting of the Foreign Representatives, at which precipitate action was proposed to be taken by the diplomatic body, I explained exactly what I had done, and requested that no action should be taken until the outcome of the negotiations had transpired. This course was adopted and new troubles thereby avoided.

Although, therefore, there is no concealment of the events here, still I think it desirable that my report thereof should not be published by the Department.

Trusting that my action will

[be approved by you,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dep. Mr Kieckhoefer

Legation of the United States
Peking, Octr. 30. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 11 1891
RECEIVED.

Mr. Martin
to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Duplicate -
Salary and Exchange
Loss accounts.

Dep.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Octr. 30. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, duplicate accounts for Salary and Exchange Loss for quarter ending Septr. 30. 1891. For the Exchange Loss, I have made draft on you in the usual way, for say $31.90

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Howard Martin

No. 1415 ack. efficiency [illegible] sympathetic [illegible] Min.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
DEC 12 1891

✓ ans'd 15 Dec

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Octr. 31. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 11 1891
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Chenanfoo Troubles.

Synopsis.

Yamên reports that all cases are settled. Only one case now pending before this Legation.

No. 1415

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Octr. 31. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received from the Foreign Office a communication, a translation whereof is enclosed. /415 It appears therefrom that the difficulties heretofore existing at Chenanfu in Shantung "have all been cleared away." Mr. Reid has been authorized to acquire land and there is no objection thereto on the part of the literati or people. This happy termination of a long standing controversy is the cause of special joy to this Legation, which I hope will be participated in by the Department.

In this connexion, I beg to state that the only claim now pending here which is not practically settled is the case of Dr. A.P. Happer, which was reported to you in my despatch No. 1347 of July last, and referred to in my despatch No. 1358 of July 24.

It is proper to state, however, that the claim of the American Episcopal Mission for damages for the destruction of its property at Ichang is not settled and that it may finally reach the Legation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure. Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

Translated by
Chas. Denby Jr.
Second Secretary.

Enclosure in No. 1415.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

Informal. Oct. 30th 1891.

Your Excellency:

We have the honor to state that we have received a telegram from the Governor of Shantung reporting that the case involving the purchase of land by Gilbert Reid at Chinanfu, in Shantung, has been settled. In our recent personal interview we informed Your Excellency of this. The telegram which we had then received, however, was not very explicit and we telegraphed for further details. We have now received a reply that all the difficulties in Mr. Reid's affairs have been cleared away. The authorization to him to find a house for a dispensary has been explained by authorized subordinate officials to the satisfaction of the literati and people and no objections thereto exist among them.

Your Excellency has, we suppose, already received a letter to this effect from Mr. Reid.

In making this communication for Your Excellency's information we avail of the occasion to wish you prosperity

Cards enclosed.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 11 1891
RECEIVED

DIPLOM
DEC 1891

No. 1416

√ an D, 14 Dec

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 6. 1891.

√ Jarvin
24 Dec

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Request for Supreme Court Reports, subsequent to Vol 113.

No. 1416

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 6. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to request that there be sent to this Legation the "United States Reports" subsequent to Volume 113, being the report of cases adjudged in the Supreme Court at October Term 1884. I have received no later volumes of these valuable reports.

I

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
DEC 29 1891 aah

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 29 1891

No 1417.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking November 8th. 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

International complications on the Pamirs

Synopsis

Reputed Russian aggression.
An account of the Pamirs

No. 1417.

Legation of the United States.
Peking November 8th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Vague rumors of Russian advance in Eastern Turkistan and Chinese uneasiness thereat seem to be confirmed by recent utterances of the Indian press telegraphed to China. From Chinese sources nothing reliable can be known. According to the Indian press Russia is again the aggressor.

Captain Younghusband, of the Indian Army, while on an exploring expedition among the elevated steppes, called the Pamirs, north of the Hindukush, adjoining Kashmir on the south and the Chinese province of Kashgar on the north and east, encountered a so-called exploring party consisting of one hundred Cossacks under the command of Captain Grombchevsky. By these he was ordered to leave the region, as his right to be there without a Russian permit was denied. He then applied to the English military post at Gilchit and two hundred Ghoorkas were detached to his assistance. Upon hearing of their arrival the Russians retraced their steps crossing again their own frontier.

This action of the Russians is regarded by the Indian Government as peculiarly significant as their advance was opposed by a Chinese General, who is said to have treated the English officer with the greatest courtesy though unable to materially assist him. It is even stated that the incident was purposely planned by Russia, as an assertion of sovereignty, with a view to opening the whole question of boundaries on the

Upper Oxus. Russia is credited with a purpose to extend her southern boundary from the Alai to the Hindukush Mountains making it contiguous to India. Such an advance would be a violation of Chinese territorial claims over the Pamirs and would deprive the Ameer of Cabul of his right over the district of Shignan, which he has administered for seven or eight years.

To English power in India it would be a graver matter still. In fact in this little incident the English papers see consequences of the greatest importance. It seems to them to mean that Russia, unceasingly bent on an invasion of India, is looking for a route southwards beside the one through Afghanistan. The people and rulers of Afghanistan are supposed to have become hostile to Russia and it is said that an advance on India by way of Herat would be resisted by all the Ameer's power. This resistance would be fatal to the invasion before even British forces were encountered. The necessity thus arises to find an easier approach further east. This, it is supposed can be accomplished at China's expense. The present troubles in the Valley of the Yangtze tie the hands of China, affording an occasion to be improved very much as the troubles of 1860 afforded an occasion to Ignatieff to gain, by treaty, the province of Primorsk.

This complication of circumstances, it is intimated will lead England and Russia alike to withdraw from the other powers, in their demands for protection of foreigners in China. The North-China Daily-News goes so far as to say that "it is to be expected that "Lord Salisbury will find it "more important to join China "in withstanding Russia, than "to join the other powers in "coercing China".

Whatever truth there may prove to be in this tissue of suppositions it would be difficult to foretell. It is not probable, however, that any material change has taken place in the attitude of England on the question of the recent riots.

The Pamirs, the scene of the first step in this impending conflict are of great historical interest. It is in this vicinity that the Aryan Race is believed to have had it's origin.

This region, though it had been crossed repeatedly by early Chinese Buddhist pilgrims, and by mediaewal travellers of other nationalities, on their journeys to and from India, was fifty years ago but little known to European geography. These steppes, whose great elevation led Chinese travellers to describe them as midway between heaven and earth, lie north of the Hindukush Mountains in Eastern Turkistan east of Bokhara and north of Kafiristan. In the Lake Sirikol, lying in the Greater Pamir, at an altitude of 15.600 feet above the sea, the celebrated river Oxus takes it's source. Modern thorough knowledge of this lake and the surrounding country begins with the explorations of Lieutenant John Wood, of the English Army. Coming up the Indus through India, and then following the Oxus River eastward, he arrived, in Feb. 1838, at it's source in Lake Sirikol, also called Wood's Lake in honor of it's discoverer.

In this vicinity is the home of the celebrated wild sheep of which Marco Polo says that their "horns are a good six palms "in length. From these horns "the shepherds make great bowls "to eat from, and they use "the horns also to enclose folds "for their cattle at night." A pair of these horns were sent by Wood to the Royal Asiatic Society of which one horn measured 4 feet 8 inches long and 14¼ inches around the base. This sheep has been named Ovis Poli in honor of the Venetian traveller.

The wonderful fertility of the Pamirs and the excellence of the pasture for animals has struck the attention of every observer. Polo says that the plain is "clothed with the "finest pasture in the world;

"insomuch that a lean beast "will there fatten to your "heart's content in 10 days." A Russian explorer, Timkowski, says that he heard that "the "pasturage of the Pamirs is so "luxuriant and nutritious "that if horses are left on it "for more than forty days they "die of repletion"

Wood observed the richness of the grass whose nourishing qualities were, he says, "evidenced "by the productiveness of their "ewes, which almost invariably "bring forth two lambs at a birth."

Since Wood's journey many expeditions of explorers have been despatched to the Pamirs by England and Russia, looking forward perhaps to future occupation. The territory is now nominally and long has been under Chinese control. It was conquered by the armies of the Emperor Kien-Lung, in the latter part of the last century, after the Chinese annexation of Ili, and, with one interruption, has continued Chinese ever since.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject & file.
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DEC 29 1891

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DEC 29 1891

No. 1418

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 10. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Troubles at Chi-ning Chow settled.

—

No. 1418

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 10. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of a letter recently received from Revd. Gilbert Reid, wherein he reports that the troubles at Chi-ning Chow have all been settled.

1/1418

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

py.

Chi-nan-fu, China,
October 27. 1891.

The Rt. Hon. Charles Denby, Esqr.,
U. S. Minister Plenipotentiary.

Sir:

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst, and to thank you for again addressing the Tsung li Yamên concerning the difficulties at this place, and also those at Chi-ning Chow. It is now possible for me to favor Y. E. with a report of the very satisfactory settlement of the missionary troubles of our Presbyterian Mission at Chining-chow. By the energetic action of the present Taotai at Chi-nan-fu, to whom the Governor of the Province had referred all cases connected with foreigners, it was decided in the month of September that a special deputy, Chin-Ching Kêng should be sent to Chi-ning Chow to confer with the local officials at that place Pêng yü sên and to so mediate that a settlement might be reached without delay. About that time a new order was received from the Tsungli Yamên; in response to a despatch from Y. E. a second deputy of the rank of Prefect, was also appointed by the Governor with special instructions to proceed to Chining Chow and effect the immediate adjustment of both the American case and that of the German missionaries. As representing the interests of our own Mission, and with the favor of a special order from the Governor, I went in person to that city, to consult with the local official and the two deputies as to the most wise and harmonious adjustment of the difficulties. By the strict orders which had been issued by the Taotai at the Capital, by the cautious and earnest efforts of the deputies, and the capacity, wisdom, and courage of the local official, I was able after a few friendly consultations to reach such a result as seemed for the interests of peace, as well as the safety of the mission. The official had already issued a clear and strong proclamation, and had secured the support of the gentry in the guarantee of peace for the future. The official on his part made a small recompense in money of the things stolen during the riots, and the gentry of the city sent as a body a present to both Dr. Hunter and myself, as an indication of their friendly interest. An exchange of calls was made between myself and the officials, gentry and scholars. The local official received me each time with great respect, and exerted himself to clear the minds of the people of all suspicions and hostility. Assistance was openly rendered in the purchase of a small piece of property, a proclamation was issued announcing the fact and enjoining the harmony of the neighbors and people, and a promise was made to protect in the future, suppress all disturbance and forbid all anonymous placards. If the previous official had shown the same justice or possessed the same ability, no riot last Winter would have occurred, and no cause existed for appeals to Y.E. and the Peking Government. Several points were yielded by me, owing to the great courtesy and friendliness manifested by the present official and to his assurances for the future. Prior to leaving the city I exerted myself in behalf of a satisfactory settlement of the Roman Catholic case and am lead to believe that the settlement of our case tended to the same result with them. It will be a pleasure to me, if you will transmit, to the State Department and the Tsungli Yamen the above facts and to express to the latter body my personal thanks for the wisdom and energy displayed by the Taotai at Chinanfu in devising a scheme for satisfactory adjustment, and for the fair and honorable action of the local official at Chining Chow with the two special Deputies. I also desire to tender to Y.E. my hearty thanks for the aid that you yourself have rendered in behalf of our Mission at Chining Chow. I will add in a few days a separate report on the Chinanfu case, the settlement of which, at least so far as property is concerned, now seems possible.

Appreciating your efforts in behalf of American missionaries

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) Gilbert Reid

To
The Rt. Hon. Charles Denby
U. S. Legation,
Peking.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

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No. 1419
Legation of the United States,
Peking, Nov. 14 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Refusal of Shanghai Taotai
to seal Deeds.

Synopsis.
Taotai refused to seal or to return, unsealed, certain Deeds. Yamên asked to order him to seal the Deeds.

No. 1419.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Novr. 14. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have sent to the Foreign Office a communication, of which a copy is enclosed, relating to the action of the Taotai at Shanghai in refusing to seal certain Deeds which were sent to him by the Consul-General to be sealed. These Deeds were Nos. 37 and 271. John Murray Forbes, by his attorney, G. H. Wheeler, transferred to H. S. Wilkinson, July 31. 1891, and Deeds Nos. 386 and 387 Russell & Co. by their attorney

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attorney, Paul Brunat, transferred to Paul Brunat August 6. 1891.

The grounds of the action of the Taotai, as stated by himself, were that the Deeds covered property owned by Messrs. Russell & Co. and the transaction had "a near resemblance to deception" and that property owned by Foreigners in China was first liable to pay debts to Chinese subjects, and that divers Chinese had claims pending against Russell & Co. The matter is more freely stated in the enclosure. The question whether a Taotai can from any cause refuse to seal a Deed regular in form made by one Foreigner to another, is of first impression in this Legation. I have demanded that the Deeds in question be sealed and returned to the Consul General and will report the answer of the Foreign Office when it is received.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure
Minister to the Foreign Office.

py.

Mr. Denby to Foreign Office.

Peking, Nov. 11. 1891.

Y. H. and Y. Exs:

I have the honor to bring to the attention of Y. H. and Y. Exs. a matter which has been reported to me by the Consul General of the U. S. at Shanghai, respecting four Deeds to certain real estate situate in the British settlement at Shanghai, which the Consul General sent to the Taotai at Shanghai in August last and which he requested should be sealed and returned. Two of these Deeds are numbered 37 and 271 respectively and were made and executed by an American citizen to a British subject. Two others numbered 386 and 387 respectively were made by the late firm of Russell & Co, American citizens, to a citizen of France. Under Art. XII of the Treaty of 1858 of China with the U.S. conveyances are to be sealed on the payment of legal fees. Nevertheless the Taotai refused to seal the above mentioned Deeds or to return them unsealed to the Consul General. I gather from the correspondence that has taken place between the Consul General and the Taotai that this official bases his action upon the statement that the land conveyed belonged to the late firm of Russell & Co. against the members whereof certain Chinese subjects have brought suits to recover money. The act of sealing or recording a Deed in no wise affects the right of setting up and maintaining any claim that a person not a party to the Deed may have (upon ?) any property described therein. In this case wherein the Deeds were made by one Foreigner to another Foreigner the Taotai undertakes to decide questions touching the validity of the Deeds without any hearing of the parties and without any trial. He certainly has no such authority. All questions affecting the rights of any person should be determined by the proper courts after legal hearing of the case. It is perfectly clear that the simple act of sealing a deed cannot affect in any way any claim that a Chinese subject might have to the land sought to be conveyed. I have, therefore, to request that Y. H. & Y. Exs. will order the Taotai to seal the said Deeds and return them to the Consul General.

(Signed) Charles Denby.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED

To ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject, with No 1418.
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DEC 29 1891

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DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 29 1891

No. 1420

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Novr. 14. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The Chi-ning chow Troubles

Synopsis.

Copy of the communication to Yamên enclosed.

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No. 1420

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Novr. 14. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, 1/420 herewith, a copy of my communication to the Foreign Office relating to the settlement of the difficulties at Chining Chow.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure, Minister to the Foreign Office.

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Mr. Denby to Foreign Office,
Peking, Novr. 12. 1891.

Y. H. and Y. E.,

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a letter from Revd. Gilbert Reid wherein he reports that all the difficulties at Chining Chow are settled. Mr. Reid speaks in very high terms of the Taotai at Chinanfu for and of the local officials at Chining Chow, and tenders to them his profound thanks for their wise and energetic action in arranging the troubles at Chining Chow. I take this occasion also to thank Y. H. and Y. Exs. for your all-important aid in this matter and for the courtesy of your communication of 30th October last informing me that the case involving the purchase of land by Gilbert Reid at

Chinanfu has been settled.
I have &c &c &c
signed Charles Denby.

Kieckhoefer

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 29 1891

No. 1421.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —
Duplicate Statement of Salary Account for Quarter ending September 30th, 1891.

No 1421. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose herewith duplicate statement of my salary account for the quarter ending 30th September 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
DEC 30 1891

No 1422. M Rockhofer

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Enclosing duplicate Statement of Rent Account for Quarter ending 30th September 1891.

No 1422. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of the Rent Account
422 of this Legation for the quarter ending the 30th September 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 29 1891

No 1423. Mr. Rudolph

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Enclosing duplicate Returns of Passports for quarter ending September 30th, 1891.

No 1423 one enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose herewith duplicate Return of Passports for the quarter ending 30th of September 1891. 23.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Return of Passports as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC [illegible] 1891

No 1424. Mr Kurchhoefer

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Enclosing duplicate statement of Contingent Expenses for quarter ending 30th September 1891.

No 1424. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir: —

I have the honor to hand you enclosed duplicate statement of the Contingent Expenses account of this Legation for the quarter ending September 30th, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

1424

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
DEC 29 1891

Separate - Mr Wieckhoefer

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

— Mr. F. D. Cheshire —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —
Enclosing duplicate Salary account for Quarter ending September 30th, 1891.

Separate. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed duplicate statement of my salary account for the quarter ending September 30th, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
F. D. Cheshire.

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
DEC 28 1891

Separate. Mr Kirchhoefer

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

— Mr. F. D. Cheshire —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statements of loss by exchange account for the quarters ending June 30th 1891, and September 30th 1891.

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Separate. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed duplicate statements of my account for loss by Exchange for the quarters ending June 30th 1891, and September 30th, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
F. D. Cheshire

Enclosure 2. Statements as above.

Checked 291

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
DEC 29 1891

No 1425.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing duplicate telegram account from September 10th to September 15th, 1891.

1/14

No. 1425 One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

1/1425 I have the honor to enclose herewith duplicate " Telegram account from September 10th to September 15th, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Account as above.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
DEC 29 1891

No. 1428

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 16. 1891.

Mr Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acknowledging Despatches.

No. 1426

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 16. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 658 of Sept. 24, relating to improvement in the buildings of this Legation.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

r Kieckhoefer

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 29 1891

No 1427.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 26 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 19th, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing statements of loss by exchange accounts for the quarters ended March 31st, June 30th, and September 30th, 1891.

No 1427. Three enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 19th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed my account for loss by Exchange for the quarters ending March 31st, June 30th and September 30th 1891 - the latter showing a balance due me of $37.73 for which amount I have drawn my draft on you in the usual manner.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosures 3 - Accounts as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 28 1891
RECEIVED.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack as interesting -
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DEC 29 1891

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DIPLOMATIC BURE
DEC 29 1891

No. 1428.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 20th, 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

The Trade Routes of Western China.

No 1428.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 20th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The apathy of China to the improvement of commercial relations with the outer world has been more than counter-balanced by the zeal of France and England, in their race for her western frontier. The recent incident at Manipur, the little independent state adjoining Upper Burma, has served to call attention to

how

how well England is getting on in her advance. France, on her part, has not been stationary, and almost daily reports of warlike encounters in Tonquin with pirates and dacoits show how the government of the colony is guarding the beginnings of the trade which the French hope to build up between Indo-China and her celestial neighbor.

Kuangsi, Yunnan and Szechuen, the three great provinces which form Southwestern China, with their great population as yet inaccessible to foreign imports and their wealth in mineral and agricultural products, are a tempting field.

The Anglo-Indian government looks with covetous eyes on the hundred millions of people whom a good road from India to China overland might convert into smokers of Indian opium and weares of Indian cotton. France thinks more, perhaps, of territorial aggrandizement and her historic dream, whose realization may now be dimly seen, of "resuming in Indo-China the place she has lost in India". Perhaps they both are inspired only with the laudable commercial ambition to open new territories and "tap" new markets. The jealousy, however, with which each eyes the progress of the other indicates that both put their faith in the doctrine that trade follows the flag.

If China herself will open no highways to her richest provinces, these two nations have undertaken at least to bring their merchandize to the boundary line. The easiest way to do this has been the conquest of outlying states, formerly China's tributaries and her buttresses against the outer world.

The province of Yunnan, for the present the goal of the race, has been called the "treasury of China". In it's rocky and almost inaccessible mountains are mines of copper which have been for many centuries the reliance of the Peking Government for the copper for it's coinage. It has an area of about one hundred thousand square miles, being larger than Italy. The population, while chiefly Chinese, consists in large part of the remnants of many races, formerly occupants of Chinese territory, who were gradually forced southwards by the advance of Chinese conquest south of the Yangtze. It was only in the 13th Century, under the great Mongol Emperor Kublai Khan, that Yunnan became an administrative part of China. It is now regularly governed by governors, prefects and magistrates nominated from Peking.

This province is exceedingly rich in mineral resources producing, besides the copper mentioned above which is a government monopoly, rubies, sapphires, amethysts and jade, also gold, silver, lead, nickle, tin, zinc, iron and coal. In fact it is one of the richest parts of a territory which has been called, not without justice, the "Golden Peninsula".

Agriculturally not so much can be said. The vallies are fertile but the country is exceedingly mountainous and cultivators of the soil few in number. The people, notwithstanding the immense material wealth with which they are surrounded, are poor and miserable even* to a greater degree than in other parts of China. For six centuries they have been under Chinese rule but no governmental efforts for the improvement of their condition has marked this period. They have never recovered from the dreadful civil wars which, after twenty years of bloodshed, were brought to a close in 1877. Chinese immigration is now encouraged, however, and hopes are entertained of building up a better and more industrious population than the Mohammedans, who were almost exterminated in the great rebellion. This immigration is slow as yet, for the Chinese dislike entering on and improving land which may be reclaimed by a previous owner.

The great obstacle in the way of Yunnan's progress is the want of roads. The Chinese government has done absolutely nothing to facilitate water communication and the mountain roads have remained the same as originally made hundreds of years ago. Adventurous traders from Yunnan make their way down into the Shan tribes of

Northern Siam and Tonquin, and sometimes even as far as Burma, to buy the cotton grown in those places. This is carried on elephants and by coolies back to Yunnanfu and sent thence, either *via* the Red River to Canton or over mountain roads to the Yangtze River. In the Shan country they are compelled, however, to follow the ridges and avoid the water-courses on account of the impracticability of the ferries and the dangerous floods.

These primitive trade-routes are beset with all manner of difficulties. To the badness of the roads must be added the robbing and slave-hunting propensities of the hill tribes and the insurmontable obstacles of rain and heat for many months in the year.

To get to Yunnan there are four principal routes, each of which has attracted the attention of traders and explorers. Two of these are actually now in the hands of foreign governments and earnest endeavors are being made for their improvement. These are the routes through British Burma and through French Tonquin. The other two are under Chinese control and little can be hoped from them. These are the route *via* the West River

West River to Canton, and the route over the mountains, or via the Tungting Lake, to the Yangtze. The best of the four, were any enterprize shown in developing it by the Chinese Government, is certainly the West River route to the ocean at Canton.

The English, by the annexation of Upper Burma in 1885, brought their territory into contact with Western Yunnan at the city of Bhamo, on the upper waters of the Irawadi River. There are now plying on this river capacious foreign steamers of the Irawadi Flotilla Company which bring English goods through English territory to the very doors of China. This route would seem at a glance to have great importance, but, in reality, it's value is almost annulled by the fact that by it Yunnan is touched at it's most inaccessible point. The province is here traversed by several chains of lofty, rugged mountains separated by large, swift rivers. Railroads would be necessary to carry on any trade across them with the people of Yunnan. Even should China be willing to coöperate and build railroads to the border of British Burma, the task would be one of immense expense and difficulty. Bhamo is

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is separated from Yunnanfu, the capital of Yunnan, by a direct distance of only 300 miles. The path, however, covers nearly a thousand miles and the total ascent is said to be 26.000 feet. China, however, would not offer any assistance were the road quite practicable, so that, as far as the China trade is concerned, the British conquest of Burma has rendered little assistance.

A much better outlook is over the actual and proposed railways of British Burma and Siam. There are already two short lines of rail from Rangoon northwards to which an extension is proposed to be added running across northwestern Siam through the Shan country to Yunnan. This road would start from some point on the existing Burmese line from Rangoon to Maulmein, and proceed thence to the Siamese city of Zimmé, thence to the Mekong River, thence across the Shan country to the border of Yunnan. The King of Siam is well known to favor the enterprize, wishing to interest the English Government in his country as an offset to the powerful and growing influence of the French colony on his eastern border.

Another railroad, to connect with this system, is proposed from Zimmé to Bangkok, entirely in Siamese territory, to draw away the trade of the Shan States and Yunnan. This road would be chiefly useful in handling the timber from the vast teak forests of Burma and Siam which is now transported by elephants in a laborious and expensive manner. The Siamese elephant is an animal under nine feet high usually, and will travel not more than eighteen miles a day carrying 250 or 300 pounds. Elephants are, however, the only means of handling teak logs and bring large prices.

The French Government as early as 1866 began to turn it's attention to the problem of trade-routes with Southern China. Being then in possession of Cochin-China and controlling the mouth of the Cambodia River, which runs up to Yunnan, this route naturally first suggested itself. An exploring party was sent up the river, which was found unnavigable because of rapids and floods, and was abandoned as a highway to China. Soon after, engaged in the German War, the attention of the mother country was turned away from her oriental colonies.

In 1885, however, by her energetic action in annexing Tonquin, the most decided advantage was secured in the race for the China trade.

French territory is now conterminous with that of China for hundreds of miles. She also has possession of the Red River from it's mouth to the Yunnan frontier — the most direct and feasable route to the sea. The distance from Hanoi, the Capital of Tonquin, to Laokai on the border of Yunnan is only 200 miles. By a convention between France and China, in 1887, two cities, Lungchow in Kuangsi and Mengtzu in Yunnan, both near the Tonquin border, were opened to French trade. Here the Chinese established custom houses, now under the charge of two American Commissioners of Customs, and the French located Consuls to oversee commercial interests.

This advance, though the French have striven to keep out foreign merchandize of other than French origin by prohibitive tariffs, is destined to be of great importance. Two steamers are now trading between Laokai and Hanoi and the river swarms with junks. The trade at Mengtzu, called the emporium of Yunnan, though the port has been open only eighteen months, shows a promising increase. The imports from foreign countries consist chiefly of cotton and woollen goods and amounted to over $600.000 in value in 1890. The exports comprised a vast variety of articles, the largest items whereof are tin and peanut oil. The total trade of the port was only a little over $1.200.000 but it is believed that this is only the beginning of a vast future. With the gradual development of her mining and agricultural resources the value of Yunnan as a market for foreign goods is sure to largely increase.

The progress of France has stimulated the English and the competition in the development of these remote regions can only have a beneficent effect, if in no other way, at least in the example which it sets to the sluggish Chinese Government. Endowed with a large part of the most desirable portions of the earth, China has never, except when forced by others, taken any steps for its development or the advancement of her people. In fact, the successive losses of territory which she has lately experienced are viewed by her friends with equanimity as the only means by which she can be aroused to a perception of her duties.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

equisition to Mr. Griffin Jany 5. 1892.

✓ Ans^d 6 Jan

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 5 1892

No 1429.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 23^d 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 5 1892
RECEIVED.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —
Indent for stationery.

No. 1429.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 23^d 1891.

To the Honorable
James. G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir: —

I have the honor to request the Department to send this Legation the usual supply of stationery; also two flags, 14 to 16 feet.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

No. 1430. Ack by No

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 5 1892

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 23. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 5 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Acknowledges receipt of despatches.

No. 1430.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 23. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:

No. 659 of October 6. 1891.
" 660 " 9. "
" 661 " 13 "
" 662 " 13 "

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

No. 1431 Ack with approval

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 8 1892

ack Jan 9

Legation of the United States,
Peking November 24. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
JAN 8 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The Claim of Dr. A. T. Napper.

Synopsis.
Minister encloses copy of his last communication to the Tsungli Yamên.

1/143'

No. 1431

Legation of the United States,
Peking November 24. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication sent yesterday by me to the Foreign Office relating to the case of Dr. A. P. Happer now pending at Canton. In this connexion I refer to my despatches Nos. 1347 and 1358 of date respectively July 13, and July 24, wherein I transmitted copies of communications on this subject. The local authorities at Canton are still postponing action.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Minister to Foreign Office.
No. 38.

Y. H. and Y. Exs:

In my communication of July 10. last, to Y. H. and Y. Exs. I brought to your attention, the case of Dr. A. P. Happer, pending at Canton and requested Y. H. and Y. Exs. to order the local authorities at that city to settle the same according to equity and justice. On the 17th day of July last Y. H. and Y. Exs. acknowledged the receipt of my communication and Y. H. and Y. Exs. then stated that instructions would be issued to pursue and recover for Dr. Happer from Chen Yung Heng the money loaned.

On the 24th day of July last I replied to the communication of Y. H. and Y. Exs. "to the effect that Dr. Happer had failed to notify the local authorities at the time of the loan in order that the transaction might be officially recorded. It is not necessary to repeat the argument then made by me, but I will only say in addition thereto that there is no warrant in the Treaties for requiring a Foreigner to report to the local authorities the fact that he has loaned money to a Chinese subject. As it is altogether likely that the borrower in this case, having been deprived of the land on the security whereof the money was loaned, will be unable to pay the debt, I have to recur to my original proposition to the effect that if the Government now undertakes to cancel and set aside a solemn grant it ought in justice to pay the money which was loaned on the faith of its own officials. I am advised by the American Consul at Canton that the Pün Yü Magistrate asserts that he cannot find the borrower Chen Ning Hung and is doing nothing towards

The conduct of the case by the magistrate seems to produce needless delay and unless Y.H. and Y. Exs. will issue an order to affect a settlement the case will hang on for months or years. I have therefore, to request that Y.H. and Y. Exs. will issue stringent orders that the matter be speedily arranged.

(Signed) Charles Denby.

towards settling their claim.
For many months both Dr Happer and Chen Wing Hung were in Canton and they could have been examined at any time. Chen Wing Hung did appear personally at the Magistrates Yamin the 2d of June 1891, and his presence could have been secured at any time for some months thereafter, and probably can be secured now if search is made for him. It is quite idle to expect the Consul to produce him because he has no control over him and does not know where he is. The facts are notorious that Chen Yung Hung spent about $15000 including the money borrowed, in fitting up the granted land, that the land if entirely filled would have been worth $30000 or more, and that the Government by the increased taxation derives a great benefit from the work already done.

The

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 5 1892

No. 1432.

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 5 1892
RECEIVED.

Peking, November 26th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Confirming telegram

No. 1432.

Legation of the United States.
Peking November 26th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your cipher telegram of the 25th inst, as follows:

"This Government does "not wish to make war "on China; take no "further joint action "with other powers until "further advised."

I

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Caules

No 1433 - ✓ Copy sent [illegible] p letter to Treasy Jan 6, 189[illegible]

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 5 [illegible]

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 5 1892
RECEIVED.

Peking November 27th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Returns of Customs Revenues for the Quarter ending Sept 30th 1891.

Synopsis

Two copies of Returns forwarded and some remarks made thereon.

No. 1433.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 27th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to send you under separate cover two copies of Statistical Series No. 2, Customs Gazette No. XCI July-September 1891.

The total collection of revenue at the twenty Chinese treaty ports amount to Hs. 6.305.139 against Hs. 5.841.591 for the same quarter last year, being a gain of Hs. 463.548 over that quarter. See pp 152-153.

The returns from Shanghai are, of course, the largest, being Hs. 1.713.655, as against Hs. 1.555.674 last year, and those from Ichang, the scene of the recent riot, fell from Hs. 48.550 to Hs. 5.126 — a decline hereinafter explained.

The returns are larger than those of 1889 but smaller than those of 1887.

Last year's declension was caused by the check given to trade by the rise in silver and the decline in the export of tea to England.

The export duty occupies

the highest place being Hs. 2.641.798; opium likin comes next, being Hs. 1.491.285. The import duty is Hs. 1.121.486; coast trade 244.947; opium duty 559.611; tonnage dues 114.119; transit dues 131.893; Thirteen of the Treaty Ports have increased in business over last year.

It is to be noted that there has been an increase in each of the above heads of revenue except Transit Dues, which fell off from Hs. 142.854 to Hs. 131.893.

These tables indicate that trade has not been affected by the recent riots, a circumstance that would seem to point to the conclusion that the riots were directed rather against missionaries as such than against foreigners.

The decline in the business at Ichang above noted arose primarily from the opening of Chungking to foreign trade, a circumstance which deprived Ichang of the advantage of being a terminal point on the Yangtze. This, of course, affected disastrously the collection of transit dues at Ichang.

Chungking appears for the first time in the Gazettes. There were entered at that port 525 foreign chartered junks during July, August and September, and cleared 121.

Of American drills there were imported 110.680 pieces in the quarter under review, as against 45.975 last year, and of American sheetings 172.635 pieces, as against 131.575 for the same quarter last year.

There was a general increase in sundries as shown on page 131.

Kerosene oil, American, went up from 8.872, in the corresponding quarter of 1890, to 2.093.720 in 1891 - an enormous increase.

American clarified ginseng about which I get more letters than about any other article, went up from 6 piculs to 8.

It may be noted, also, that 1.562.250 gallons of American kerosene were conveyed to the interior on transit passes.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

To ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Navy Dep't for information as to situat
Ack by subject & file. AAA
JAN 9 1892

Jan 11

Jan 11

DIPLOMATIC
JAN 9 1892

No. 1434

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Nov. 28. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JAN 8 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Riots in Mongolia.

Synopsis.
Gives an account of anti-Christian riots and of an alleged insurrection.

No. 1434.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Nov. 28. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that serious riots have lately broken out in Mongolia. The 17th inst, a band of five hundred rioters belonging to a society called the Tsai-li-ti, burnt several houses belonging to Christians situated thirty li (ten miles) east of San-che-

Thirteen

Kiatsin, and Killed all the men, women and children. Afterwards at San che Kiatsin the same band burnt the orphan asylum, the church, and the residence of the missionaries and completely destroyed the village. More than three hundred persons were Killed, among them a Chinese Catholic priest. From San che Kiatsin this band went to Pa Keon (Ping tchouan-tcheon) where it continued its devastations. The Christians and their children fled to the mountains while the residence of the Missionaries was completely destroyed. The military authorities, though requested, refused to interfere. The rioters marched towards Yin-men-tien and Lao-hou-Keou where are important Christian Centres. The 19th inst, this band went to Chao-tou-tze where dwell forty Christian families. The 20th inst., it burnt Nie-men-tze sixty five li south west of Pakeou where reside eighty Christian families. The 21st inst, this band was at Pien-Kiao. It burnt all the houses in these places. All the orphans in the asylum at Sang-tze-ho were burnt alive in the asylums.

a

A missionary living at Pekze-Chan-ho was killed and also disfigured. The chiefs of the Tsai-li-ti belong to the province of Shantung.

In addition to this information, which has been furnished by the minister of France, I have received from the Consul at Tientsin information that an insurrection against the Government has broken ou in Mongolia. He states that the rebels have advanced south to the Great Wall and hold all Mongolia east of Jeho to the sea and south to the Wall, that Government troops are being concentrated and a battle is imminent. The Viceroy Li has sent six thousand troops to the seat of war. If the Government troops are defeated it is supposed that the rebels will march on Peking. The Consul further informs me that it is reported at Tientsin that an American, an engineer, was killed at Jeho, also a Belgian priest. It seems likely that it was a Chinese and not a Belgian who was killed. The rebels are said to number ten thousand and to be well organized. My Colleagues here put little faith in these reports from

Tientsin, but believe that the uprising is local and is similar to many others that have taken place during the past twenty years, and that the Government will be able to suppress the insurrection. It is impossible to obtain any definite information, as to this matter, in Peking. The scenes of the various disorders are about two hundred miles from this capital.

Since the above was written the Consul at Tientsin has informed me that he has received official information of the troubles near Jeho with the request that neither merchants nor missionaries travel in that direction until the rebellion has been put down. All the American Missionaries have left Sunhua and gone to Tientsin. At Sunhua there is a large and flourishing Methodist Mission one hundred miles east of Peking.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 14 1892

No. 1435
Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 28. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 8 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Ackd to Mr Blair 21 Mar 93

Subject.

The refusal of Foreign Powers to receive duly accredited Envoys.

Synopsis.

The Minister expresses his concurrence with the views set out in despatch No. 659.

No. 1435

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 28. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that I have read with great interest and complete concurrence your despatch No. 659, of the 6th ult, wherein you discuss and deny the right of a foreign country to refuse on an insufficient ground, stated and relied on, to receive an Envoy duly accredited by the Government of the United States to its Court.

Your despatch will be of great service to this Legation should the question involved ever arise here.

I

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 8 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 8 1892

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 2 1891.

File

To
The Honorable
William F. Wharton,
Asst. Secretary of State,
Washington. D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge your esteemed favor of the 21st Septr. 1891.

In reply, permit me to thank you for your patience in the matter of Messrs. Mustard & Co., and to repeat my assurance that I will use every effort to settle my matters here at the earliest possible date.

I trust, however, that in refusing me the requested leave to return to the United States for the purpose of arranging these matters, you realize the difficulty

of transacting such business
at this great distance.
I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Howard Martin.

No. 1436 / ack. with No. 1431.

Jan 9

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 8 1892

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 3. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 8 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Claim of Dr. A. P. Napper.

Synopsis.
Local authorities ordered
to arrange it.

1
1436

No. 1436

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 3. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 8 1892
RECEIVED

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State;
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 1431 of November 25. 1891, relating to the claim of Dr. Happer, I have the honor to enclose a translation of the reply of the Foreign Office thereto. It will be seen that the local authorities have been ordered to arrange the matter.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure
Foreign Office to the Minister.

Yamên to Minister.

No. 41 November 30. 1891.

Your Excellency:-

The Prince and Ministers on the 25th inst, had the honor to receive a communication from you in reference to the loan made by Dr. Stapper to Chen Yung Heng, wherein you states that the U. S. Consul at Canton had advised you that the Pan Yü magistrate asserts that he cannot find Chen Yung Heng and is doing nothing towards settling the claims; that if the case is to be allowed to drag on there is no telling when it will be closed and the Yamên was therefore requested to issue stringent instructions that the matter be speedily arranged. The Prince and Ministers in reply have the honor to say that they have ordered the Viceroy of the Taokuang Provinces to instruct the officials to act in conjunction with the U. S. Consul and speedily arrange

a

a settlement of the matter without
further delay.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Navy for general information
Ack by subject and file
JAN 9 1892

1 — 12 Jan

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 11 1892
12 Jan

aag

No. 1437

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 4. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 8 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
The insurrection in Mongolia.

Synopsis.
Minister gives some additional items of information.

No. 1437

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 4. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 1434 of Novr. 28, giving an account of the insurrection in Mongolia, I have but little information to add thereto. An engagement between the Imperial troops and the rebels is reported in which the rebels lost six hundred men killed, and the government only one man. But this report has not been verified and is not believed here. The Government does not seem to be alarmed at the situation and makes light of it.

nothing definite will be known until three weeks have elapsed. The rebels are said to have designated a young Mongol Prince as the new Emperor. The inscriptions on their banners proclaim death to Foreigners and missionaries and the overthrow of the existing dynasty. Should the rebels be successful in a general engagement, it is thought that they would have great accessions of numbers and would march on Peking. The condition of the Foreigners at Peking would then be dangerous. The Methodist Episcopal Mission here propose to send the school children away. I advised against the step, as tending to increase the prevailing excitement, and being evidently premature. I requested the admiral to send a ship to Tientsin. "He has ordered the "Palos" thither, but it is doubtful whether she can get there on account of ice. It is reported that a Japanese man-of-war had to stop at Taku. The existing insurrection has tended to unite more closely the Foreigners and the rulers of China. While China has not done its full duty in the way of affording protection to Foreigners, still there is reason to entertain a better founded hope of securing protection from the Government than from the secret societies and armed insurrectionists whose watchwords are the destruction of native Christians and Foreigners, as well as the overthrow of the existing dynasty. Besides, in spite of sensational newspaper reports to the contrary, no Foreign Representative here ever contemplated advising that war be made on China. The only object of our joint appeal to our various Governments was to bring to bear on China a concerted influence which might determine her to adopt more stringent measures to prevent riots. I have no doubt that this action on the part of the Foreign Representatives did have a powerful effect.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 26 1892
RECEIVED.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject & file.
JAN 28 1892
AA

No 1438.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 5th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The Chinanfu troubles settled.

Synopsis
Newspaper account of the
settlement enclosed.

One enclosure.

No. 1438.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 5th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to 438 enclose herewith a cutting from the North-China Daily News of the 28th ult., wherein a full account of the recent happy settlement of the Chinanfu troubles is given.

Mr. Reid has not officially reported this settlement to me but, from anterior information received from him, I have no doubt that the enclosure truly recites the facts.

The contest between the missionaries and the officials has been long and severe. The missionaries have demonstrated pluck and endurance and will receive my congratulations.

Both on your account and on account of this Legation I fervently hope that the Chinanfu missionaries will not get into any more trouble.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Clipping fr. N. C. Daily News Nov. 28th 1891.

Enclosure in No. 1438.

Clipped fr. N-C-Daily News Nov 28 1891.

We [illegible] report the settlement of the long [illegible] and wearisome contest of the A[illegible] Presbyterian Mission in securing p[illegible] city limits. The last [illegible] has been in connection with [illegible] land leased fo[illegible] the [illegible] history [illegible]. Some [illegible] that the new Taotai [illegible]ed of the missionaries that an [illegible] allowed, if an equally suitable [illegible] found. This request was acceded [illegible] by the missionaries. Some three weeks since, a small plot of low swamp land was offered in the north-east suburb, which of course was deemed unsuitable. Several interviews were held between Mr. Reid and the officials, and at last on the 31st of October, an agreement was orally made at the Taotai's yamen between Mr. Re[illegible] the one side, and the Taotai, Prefect, Magistrate, two special Deputies for foreign affairs, and two of the leading gentry of the city. By a promise that no high-storied buildings be erected, and no ditch dug out, to destroy the geomantic influence, the land was decided to peaceably revert to the Mission. Since then the Mission and the gentry have [illegible] reported by letter or petition to the Magistrate, whereby the case could be closed, and building begun. The 30 years' lease has been changed to a perpetual lease, and presented to the Magistrate for official seal. Arrangements have been made to build this autumn a wall and a few buildings, but on account of the military examination and other reasons there is a delay of a few days. It is intended to prevent all trouble, and so a little more leisure is being extended to the officials to make their final plans of protection.

The first effort at securing property in the suburbs goes back a period of eight years, but as associated with the present case some six years. The opposition started by the gentry was in May, 1887, and has lasted ever since in different ways. Two riots have occurred (besides one against an English missionary,) and three others threatened. And yet amid all this opposition the missionaries have made advancement, even in the tangible matter of property. And property leased in the east suburb, and concerning which the gentry stirred opposition, has been held, and the sanction given to purchase, if so desired. A piece of land has been purchased in the country, [illegible] house leased for 10 years in the city, [illegible] property taken by perpetual lease in [illegible] east suburb has been given up and money taken back, while with this [illegible] a new piece has just been secured under perpetual lease in the east suburb. Also six different houses and one shop have during the period been peaceably rented by the different missions. The result just reached has not been by stirring up bad blood; but with the prospect of harmony and good-will, by steadily [illegible] on, and by watching the [illegible] circumstances, success has come. The U. S. Minister has kept patiently interceding for the missionaries—the last order being issued only a few weeks since—and to him a large amount of gratitude is due from the missionaries.

We have just heard that the Roman Catholics have purchased a house in the city limits at Chiningchow, and so their case can be regarded as all settled.

Thus while troubles are occurring in the south, peace and favour are descending on foreigners and missionaries in the north—even in so-called hostile Shantung. The new era is largely due to the energy and capacity of the new Taotai at this place, Chang Shang-ta, a Honan man. All these cases settled have been under his supervision and by his mediation. When he assumed office in August, he determined to settle up every case in his jurisdiction, or which should be submitted to him, and for now successfuly settling the two cases at Chiningchow—American Presbyterian and German Catholic—and the one case here, he deserves promotion at an early date. There remains the case at Yenchow Fu, under another Taotai.

9th November.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 26 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 27 1892

No. 1439

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 7. 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

To Treasury
29" Jany. 92. [illegible]

Subject.

Loans made by Foreigners to Chinese Officials.

Synopsis.

Rules promulgated touching the same.

1
1439

No. 1439

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 7. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication recently received from the Foreign Office relating to the mode of negotiating loans by Foreign Merchants to the Chinese officials. The Imperial Government has adopted the rule that a Foreign merchant contracting to loan money to Chinese officials must first report the matter to his minister at Peking so that he can enquire of the Tsungli Yamên if the question has been laid before the Throne and is on record, in which case the loan can be made. If this formality is not complied with, the Government will not recognize any contract and will take no action to recover the money loaned.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One Enclosure
Foreign Office to Minister.

4.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.
No. 42 Peking. Decr. 4. 1891.
Y. Ex:–

Hitherto when Foreign Loans have been contracted by the Viceroys and Governors of the various Provinces to meet important public demands, the rule has invariably been for them to first memorialize the Throne requesting His Majesty to issue his Edict granting permission to take action in the premises; and the Yamên has at the same time sent an official communication to the Foreign Minister concerned as evidence of the transaction.

Of late, many Chinese Officials, without memorializing the Throne, have privately contracted loans with Foreign merchants which is decidedly not right and proper.

The Board of Revenue has, in conjunction with the Yamên, memorialized the Emperor to effect "that from this time forward when Chinese Official high or low, contract loans with Foreign merchants, the Foreign Merchant must first report the matter to his minister at Peking, so that he can enquire of the Yamên if the question has been laid before the Thron and is on record, in which case the loan can be made. If, on the other hand, the matter has not been presented to the Emperor and there is no record of authority and the loan has been negotiated privately, in the event of trouble arising, whether or not the contract has been stampe with the official seal, the Government will not recognize it and take action to recover the money loaned."

On the 25th of November last His Majesty's Decree was issued in the following words:—"Let action be taken as requested." This action is taken in order that every care and caution be exercised in the matter of loans, and with a view also to prevent Foreign Merchants from becoming involved financially. As in duty bound the Prince and Ministers send this communication for Your Excellency's information and will thank you to make the contents known to American Merchants so that they may act in due observance thereof.

A necessary communication addressed to H. Ex.

Charles Denby

&c &c &c

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 26 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC [illegible]
JAN 27 1892

No. 1440. ack by subject

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 8. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

√ Ackd 29th Jany. 92. M.

Subject.

Passports and Transit Passes are not to be applied for at present at Tientsin.

Synopsis.

Yamên requests suspension of passports and transit passes on account of troubles near Jeho. The insurrection over.

1/1440

No. 1440.
Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 8. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication, received from the Foreign Office, wherein I am requested to notify the Consul at Tientsin that passports and transit passes should not, for the present, be issued, available for the Jeho district on account of troubles created there by mounted brigands.

This request is reasonable and will be complied with.

I have to state that

information reached Peking yesterday that the rebels have been routed, and the insurrection is at an end. A further account will be transmitted to you.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One enclosure,
Yamĕn to The Minister.

Yamên to the Minister.
No. 43. Peking, Decr. 5. 1891.

Y. Ex:-

On the 30th of November 1891, the Prince and Ministers received a communication from the "Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade", embodying a report presented by the Customs Taotai at Tientsin, Li Hsing Jui to the following effect.

It appears that when Foreigners proceed into the Interior, passports are issued to them from the Taotai's Yamên. The Taotai, at the same time, writes to the local authorities concerned to protect them as provided for in the Treaties. Transit passes are also issued from the Taotai's Yamên to Foreigners who purchase native produce in the Interior, and when these documents are issued the local officials concerned are communicated with to take action accordingly. Now it appears that within the jurisdiction of Jeho there are mounted brigands who have been creating trouble. Should Foreigners, as formerl frequently visit the region named, it is to be feared that the local authorities would find difficulty in extending to them full and adequate protection and this might result in bringing about further complications. It is proposed to address the Foreign Consul at Tientsin that Foreigners should not, for the present, make application for either passports or transit passes available for the Jeho district, and those to whom these documents have already been issued, should not, for the present, use them. When peace and order have been restored then the rules of action, hitherto in force, will be carried out. From the report of the Taotai, it is apparent that that officer is actuated by a desire to exercise every care in caution in giving due protection to Foreigners. The Taotai has addressed the Foreign Consuls at Tientsin on the subject and as in duty bound the Prince and Ministers send this communication to the Minister of the United States, expressing the hope that he will in turn instruct the United States Consul at Tientsin that applications, for the present, should not be made either for passports or transit passes available for the Jeho region, and that Americans to whom such have already been issued should not, at the present time, proceed there. When order has been restored in the said region then action will be taken as hitherto. A necessary communication addressed to

His Excellency
Charles Denby
&c &c &c

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 26 1892
RECEIVED.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack.
Give Decree to Press.
JAN 28 1892
aa

29 Jan

DIPLOMATIC

29 Jan

No 1441.

Legation of the United States.
Peking December 8th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The insurrection in Mongolia practically subdued.

Synopsis
Imperial decree enclosed detailing successes of the Imperial Troops.

One enclosure.

No. 1441.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 8th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of an imperial decree which appeared in the Peking Gazette yesterday.

This decree recites that the rebels in Mongolia have been several times routed by the imperial troops, their leaders have been killed or captured and the insurrection is practically finished.

The information furnished is generally credited at Peking and has been received with much satisfaction by the foreign community.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure:
Decree from Peking Gazette as above.

Translated by
Ch. Denby Jr.
Second Secretary

Enclosure in No 1441.

Imperial Decree.

We some time ago received from Te Fu a memorial with reference to the rebels at Jeho and Chao-yang. At that time Li Hung-chang, Ting-an and Yü-lu were ordered to despatch troops thither by different routes and suppress the uprising.

Later we received a memorial from Yeh Chih-ch'ao, Lieutenant-General of Chihli, stating that, at Chien-chang Hsien, San-shih-chia-tzu and other places, victories had been gained over the rebels.

Now memorials are simultaneously presented from Ting-an, Yü-lu and Li Hung-chang reporting the overthrow of the adherents of the prohibited sects and giving the details of repeated victories over them. Of these memorials we have taken careful notice.

During the 10th moon, from the 20th to the 27th day (Nov. 21st - 28th) the Brigade Generals Nieh Kuei-lin and Keng Teng-ming, ordered over from Manchuria, gained repeated battles within the limits of Chao-yang Hsien. They captured alive Kuo Wan-chang, the leader of the rebels, and many others. They also captured alive another leader called Yang Ming and killed Tu Pa-shih, a leader of a sect. More than a thousand of the bandits were put to flight and all who remained were defeated and scattered.

Chang Yung-ching, Brigade General, and others have now been sent to Chang-wu, Tai Mên, and that vicinity, to cooperate in the conquest of those localities. The companies of troops sent on by Yeh Chih-ch'ao defeated the adherents of the prohibited sects on the 27th of last month (Nov. 28th) at Wu-kuan-ying in the jurisdiction of Chien-chang Hsien. They put to death the great leaders Fu Lien-hsin and Pêng Tai-ho. They also killed many of the Taoist renegades who wore strange garments and recited spells. The ground was strewn with the corpses of the rebels slain. Countless arms and horses were taken.

The neighborhood of Ping-chien is now free from rebels and the work of conquest is being carried on step by step from Chien-chang to Chao-yang. Companies of cavalry have been despatched from the district under Prince Ka-la-ch'in to surround and defeat the rebels to the northwest.

The measures taken have been most satisfactory. The bodies of troops sent on this occasion from Manchuria and Chihli have advanced with the utmost rivalry. In every fight they have gained a victory. They deserve great praise.

Orders must be given to Li Hung-chang, Ting-an and Hsi-lu to command the officers and troops to avail of this opportunity to inspire terror amongst the rebels and with combined strength to proceed with the work of suppression. Let them hasten to destroy the rebels now occupying Chao-yang and allow none to remain and thus restore peace to the country.

6th Day, 11th Month, 17th Kuang Hsü
Dec. 6th 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 26 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 27 1892

No. 1442. Ackd by No of Feb

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 10. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acknowledges receipt of despatches.

No. 1442.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 10. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as below:

No. 663 of Octr. 17.
" 664 " " 19.
" 665 " " 20.
" 666 " " 21.
" 667 " " 22.
" 668 " " 23.

Circular referring to the distribution of cuts, maps, &c, of the World's Columbian Exposition.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Kiechhoefer

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 26 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 27 1892

No 1443.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 10th, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing Telegraph Account from October 10th to December 4th 1891.

No. 1443. one enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 10th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of my account for official telegrams from October 10th to December 4th 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

1443.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 29 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 29 1892

No. 1444
Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 16. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

To Dir. Genl. Davis
9 Feby. '92 – M.

Subject.

Importation into China of cuts, &c. of the World's Columbian Exposition Buildings.

Synopsis

Free admission allowed by China.

No. 1444.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 16. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

In reply to your circular of October 23. 1891, relating to the importation into China of cuts of all the buildings, maps, engravings, electrotypes, and the like, relating to the World's Columbian Exposition, I have the honor to inform you that the Foreign Office has sent me a communication wherein it informs me that orders have been issued to all the Customs Officials at the Treaty Ports to admit free of any duty the

above enumerated articles.
444 A translation thereof is
herewith enclosed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure
Jamen to Minister.

Yamen to Minister.

Y. Ex:

The Ministers have had the honor to receive a note from the minister of the United States in regard to cuts, &c., of the buildings of the Columbian Exhibition for Foreign Newspapers which will be sent to Foreign countries free of charge, if there be no duty leviable on them. The minister of the U. S. enquired whether such articles are subject to any import duty in China, and if they are whether an exemption may be made in this case, and the privilege of free entry may be accorded to them &c.

In reply, the ministers would state that instructions have been sent to all the Treaty Ports that cuts of the buildings &c., being for the purpose of the exposition, are to be admitted

after due examination, free
of duty.

Cards, &c

nclosures

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 29 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOM
JAN 29 1892

No 1445.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 17th, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statements of accounts for loss by exchange for quarters ending March 31st June 30th, and September 30th, 1891.

No. 1445 Three enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 17th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed duplicate statements of my accounts for loss by Exchange for the quarters ending March 31st, June 30th,
45. and September 30th 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosures 3. duplicate statements as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 8 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr Hackhoufer

No. 1446.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 18th, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of account for official telegrams from October 10th to December 4th, 1891.

No. 1446. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 18th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement
46. of my account for official telegrams from October 10th, 1891, to December 4th, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. duplicate statement as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 8 1892
RECEIVED.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack as read with attention -
FEB 9 1892

✓ 11 Feb

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
FEB 10 1892

No 1448.

Legation of the United States.

Peking December 22nd 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The insurrection in Northern China.

Synopsis
An account of the insurrection with map and reports from the Peking Gazette enclosed.

Three enclosures.

No. 1448.

Legation of the United States.
Peking December 22nd 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The insurrection in the northern part of this province, which once threatened to assume alarming proportions, has been so far overcome as to render certain it's ultimate complete repression.

As to the progress of this movement the official reports in the Peking Gazette, unreliable as such reports are, have, so far, been our only sources of information. Of the true causes of the uprising almost nothing can be known. The rumors which have succeeded one another in Peking are most contradictory. At one time it was reported that the rebellion had originated in the action of a young man of an influential family whose father had been unjustly executed. Later it was reported that a Mongol noble had carried off the daughter of a Chinese settler. A mob was organized for her recovery; some members of the mob were imprisoned and the rebellion began with an armed attack upon the Yamēn for their release.

Antagonism to Christianity probably did not figure to any great extent in the movement. Many hundreds of native Catholics have, doubtless, been killed, but this is to be accounted for by the fact that in wide areas north of the Great Wall converts to the Catholic Church comprise almost the total population. It is certain that, when once under way, the uprising took the form of a revolt against the reigning dynasty. The leader of the movement called himself "Mieh Ch'ing Wang" which may be translated "Prince Overthrower of the Chings" – Ching being the dynastic title of the present Emperor. The rebel troops carried flags on which were displayed a painted or embroidered cock, in allusion to a saying for many years current amongst the people: "Fear not the tiger which comes from the south, but fear the chicken which comes from the north." The power of proverbs is very great among the populace in China, and the rebels doubtless hoped to enlist under their banners many believers in the destiny of this dynasty to be overthrown by a northern enemy.

The past history of China

affords many instances of the fulfillment of such prophetic sayings. It was said of Shih Hwang-ti, the builder of the Great Wall and one of China's greatest emperors, that his empire would be endangered by Hu. He accordingly devoted all his energies to the conquest of the barbarous tribes on his northern frontier, who were known as the Hu, but the prophecy was unexpectedly accomplished when he was assassinated by his own son and successor Hu Hai.

It is probable that the present rebellion is only an exaggerated instance of the depredations of organized bands of robbers such as occur every year north of the Great Wall on a smaller scale. One peculiar feature this year is the presence, among the rebels, of many Taoist priests, who are supposed to be able with magic spells to protect their followers from the bullets of the enemy.

The locality to which the operations of the rebels have thus far been confined is that 1/1448 part of the province of Chihli northeast of Peking, beyond the Great Wall, adjoining the Palisades which mark the Manchurian frontier. The reports in the Gazette, however, indicate

a

a fear of further disturbance near Urga, the Capital of Mongolia and also near the Amur River in Manchuria. Should the insurgents be able to reach Urga and involve the Mongol tribes in their movements the matter would become much graver than it has been. The vigorous action of the imperial troops, however, renders this improbable.

As to the loss of life nothing definite can be known. Twelve hundred Catholics are said to have been killed by the insurgents and great atrocities committed against them. The lists of killed and captured of the enemy in the Gazette will not exceed 3000, while the losses to the government troops are represented as less than one hundred. The people, as is usual in China, have suffered from both sides. For some time it was impossible to hire carters or muleteers to go out of Peking as the government troops were ruthlessly impressing all vehicles to transport materials of war.

This uprising has never occasioned the uneasiness among the foreign residents of Peking which certain telegrams sent abroad might lead one to imagine. The missionaries at

Tsun-hua were much nearer the scene of the disturbance and in much greater danger. Upon the orders of the local authorities they were compelled to abandon their mission and take refuge in Tien Tsin. As to Peking there was scarcely any evidence of the hostilities going on just beyond the northern passes, and no apprehension as to personal safety was at any time felt.

Translations of some of the notices of the progress of the war, which have appeared in the Gazette up to this date, are enclosed herewith. These enclosures, and that in my despatch No. 1441

and 3
448

of the 8th inst., constitute the only official information to be obtained on the subject.

I have the honor to be,

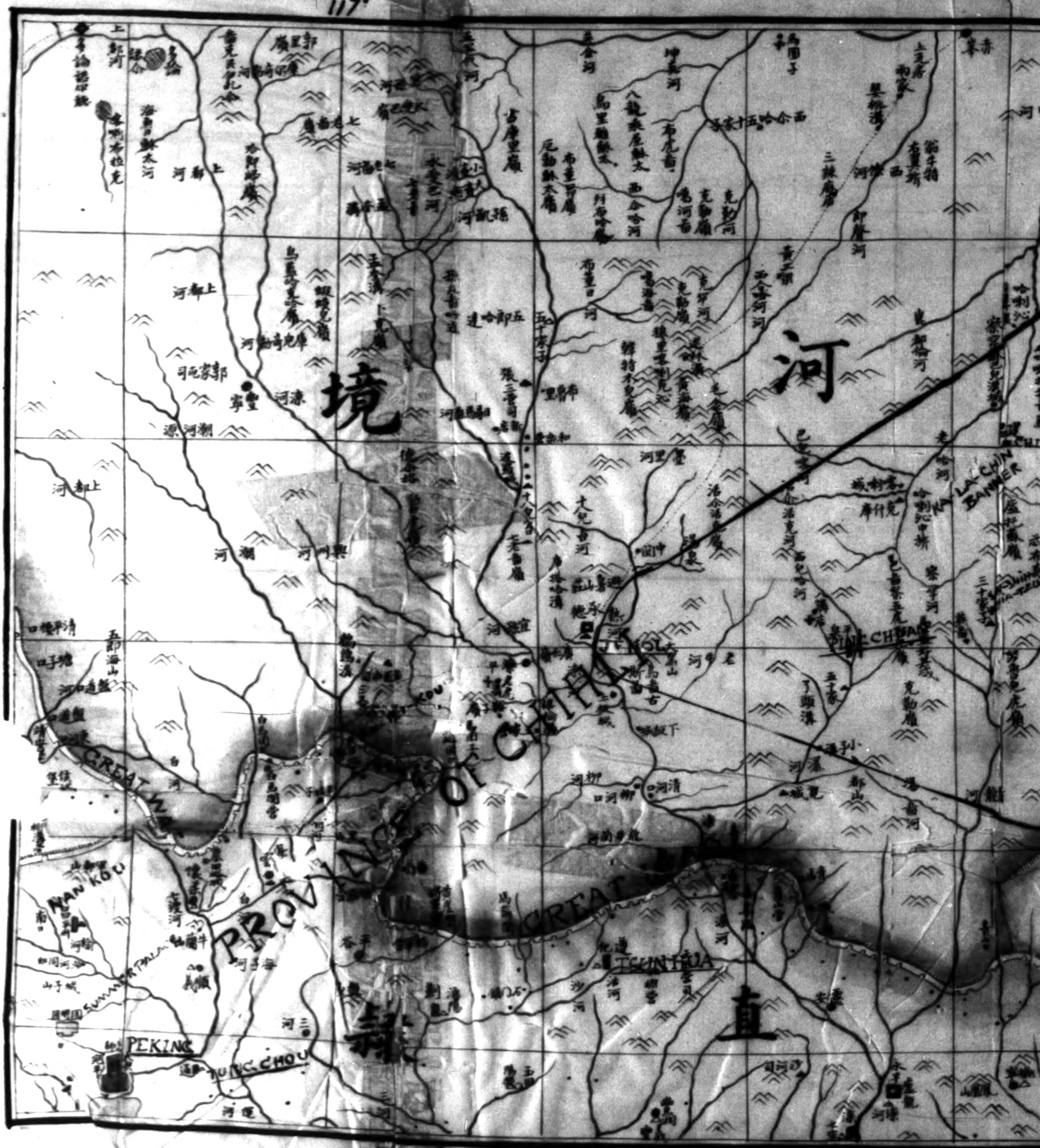
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. Map of scene of uprising.
2. Memorial fr. Gazette, Dec. 11th 1891.
3. Decree " " " 12th "


117°
41°
40°
境
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直
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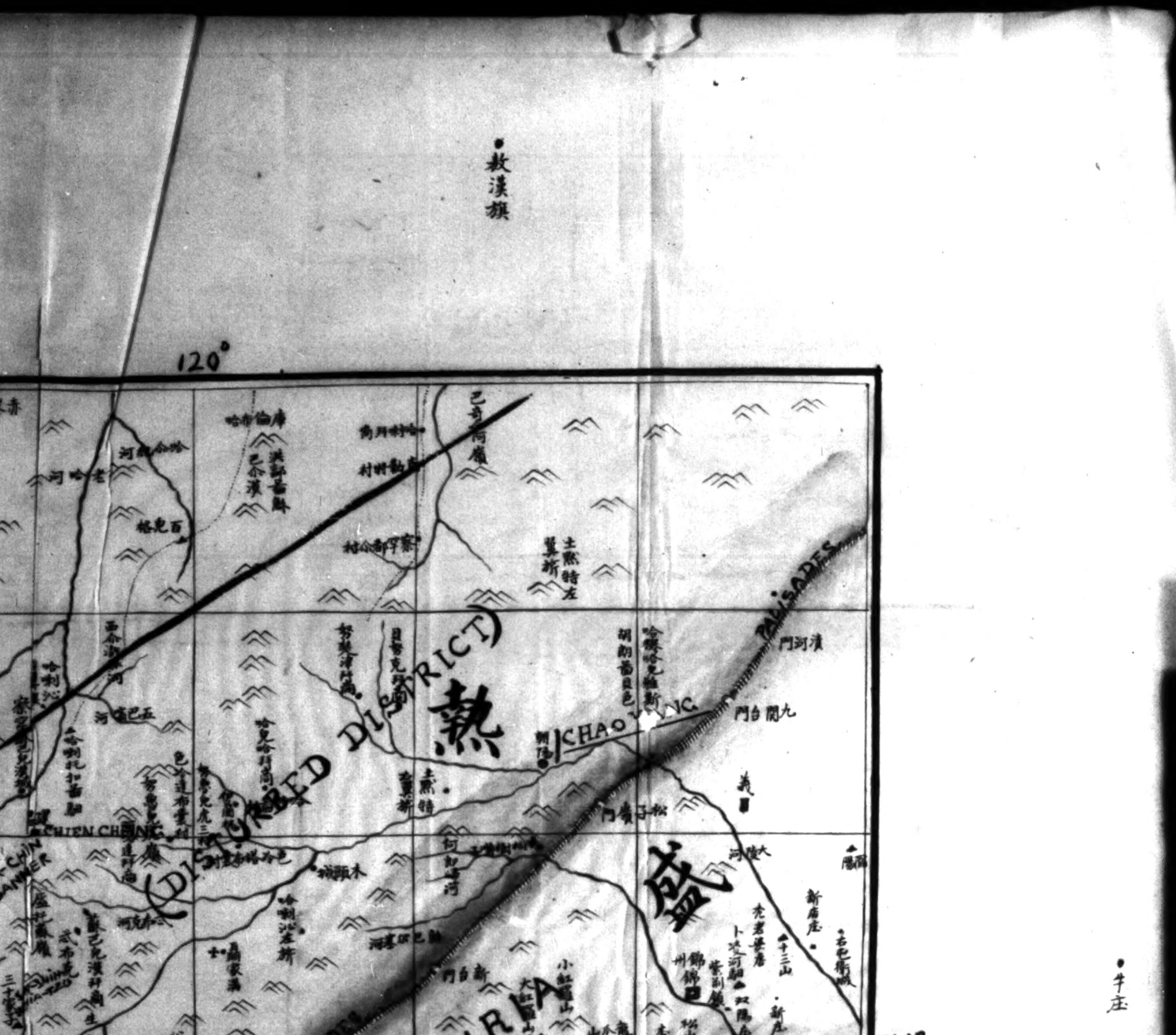
GREAT WALL
GREAT WALL
PROVINCE OF CHIHLI
JEHOL
PING CHUAN
KA LA CHIN BANNER
TSUN HUA
NAN KOU
SUMMER PALACE
PEKING
TUNG CHOU

MAP of NORTHERN PART of PR

SHOWING SCENE of REBELLION of

(CATHOLIC CHAPELS MARKED WITH A R


敖漢旗
120°
(DISTURBED DISTRICT)
熱
盛
京
MANCHURIA
PALISADES
PALISADES
CHAO YANG
CHIEN CHANG
SHAN HAI KUAN
GULF
海
41°
40°
牛庄
熱河直隸盛京交界圖
大清光緒十七年冬月畫
石泉

PROVINCE of CHIHLI,

of 1891-

A RED CROSS.)

[Ch. Denby Jr.]

Translated by
Ch. Denby Jr.
Second Secretary.

Enclosure 2 in No 1448.

Memorial from Peking Gazette, Dec. 11th 1891.

Your servants Ting-an(1) and Yü-lu(2), kneeling, memorialize the throne, giving details of the movements of troops toward Chao-yang Hsien, for the suppression of the rebellion there, and of the battles fought as well as of the reinforcements of horse and foot soldiers which have been sent on.

Upon their reverent memorial they pray the sacred glance.

Your servants have already stated in a memorial that, when they received information of the rebellious disturbances at Jeho and Chao-yang Hsien, they consulted together as to forwarding troops for the defense of these localities.

On the 22nd Nov., your servant Yü-lu, received by telegram an imperial decree ordering a memorial to be presented on the actual state of affairs. On the 26th he received another decree ordering that copies of the said decree be reverently made and forwarded to Teng-sheng-a and others in command of troops, directing them with earnest efforts and united strength to assist in putting down the rebels. This is all matter of record.

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(1) Military Commissioner for Manchurian Provinces.
(2) Military Governor of Sheng Ching.

On the 25th Nov., your servants received from Nieh Kuei-ling, recorded for the rank of general, a telegram announcing that he had information that the rebels had had an engagement with the braves at Chao-yang Hsien, on the 20th. That at once the several divisions of the army were led forward, with the utmost speed, to entrap them. From first to last 200 or more rebels were killed and a score or so taken alive. The mass of them fled. On the 21st they were pursued to Tao-hua-ti, 20 miles east of Chao-yang Hsien, and attacked with the utmost vigor, 50 being killed. In this engagement Chang Wan-lu, a military mandarin of the 6th grade, lost his life and Corporal Wang Fu-kuei sustained serious wounds. The rebels fled under cover of the darkness.

On the 22nd, the troops continued the pursuit. The rebels, to the number of upwards of 2000, had the boldness to offer resistance in order of battle. Nieh Kuei-lin directed Yen Wên-kuei, who was cooperating with him, and Yang Chin-shan, a subordinate officer, to advance with all their cavalry and attack the enemy from the east. Officers Chang Yü-liang, Chou Ting-shun and Cha-lan-shu-lin, with the horsemen of the Chieh-sheng Battalion at Chin Chou, were to attack from the west. Yang Yung-an, Chang Kuei-yuan, in command of the infantry of the central and rear battalions, and Wu Chao-hsiang and Li Tien-shou, were ordered to attack along the central road. At 8 o'clock the engagement began and continued during eight hours. Our troops assaulted the enemy with great vigor. At 2 p.m. the rebels were exhausted and, completely routed, they fled in confusion. They were pursued more than ten miles and upward of 700 slain, 30 prisoners being taken. Two hundred guns, and other weapons, and 20 big and little "cross" flags were captured. After our troops were recalled from the pursuit, examination showed that seven soldiers had been wounded. The rebels fled northwards, the darkness preventing further chase. The troops have now, however, marched with great speed to

Tsi

Hsi-kuan-ying-tzu, northwest of the city of Chao-yang Hsien, in pursuit.

On the 24th, 25th and 26th Nov we received telegrams from Keng Feng-ming, having the recorded rank of general, stating that early in the morning of the 24th he led his troops to Lao-ya-kou, 20 miles from Ching-ho-mên, which is within the borders of the district of Chao-yang, where he met a detached company of rebels numbering about 300. He atonce attacked them with his troops, killing 40 and taking Kuo Wan-chang and 28 others prisoners. More than 100 people were burnt to death and many weapons captured. The rebels fled to Ta-miao, San-chia-tzu, Chu-lo-ko-tai and other places. On the 25th they were pursued to the last named place where they had assembled to the number of about 1400 men. They were all provided with weapons and offered resistance. The General led on his troops in divisions and fought the rebels from eight o'clock in the morning until four in the afternoon. The rebels suffered a great defeat, losing several hundred dead. Those who remained fought their way to the mountains and escaped. Their tracks are being followed and they are attacked wherever information leads to their discovery.

I-shou, Military Commandant of I-chou, and Chen Tung-chang, Magistrate at the same place, report, on the 28th, that they were informed that there were rebels escaping beyond the borders to the east. That on the 20th, they had despatched Sergeant Chang Chi-te and Ko-shing-o, an officer of the Chieh Sheng Battalion, at the head of their soldiers to follow along the boundary and hunt them out and seize them. On arriving at Shui-chuan-tun, they suddenly encountered 70 or 80 rebels with whom were a large number of women who, weapons in hand, came on like ants. The officers deploying their forces advanced to the attack. The rebels seemed to be afraid and retreated into an enclosure. The Sergeant and officers forced their way in when Chang Chi-te was wounded on both hands and Ko-hsing-o was severely cut on the left hand. They continued, nevertheless, to lead their forces in the fight. On this occasion two rebels were killed, one man and one woman. Li Pa-shih, a leader of a sect was also put to death together with seven male and two female rebels. Yang-ming, their leader, seizing an opportunity fled but was afterwards taken with some other prisoners.

On the 28th Nov. Capt. I-sang telegraphed that he had, on the 26th, at the Great Temple in the district of Chao-yang, encountered the rebels, of whom he killed 70 or 80 and took 20 prisoners.

All the troops despatched to Chao-yang have exhibited the utmost bravery and their conduct has been most satisfactory. It is learned, however, that rebels of the above character exist in numerous bands at Chao-yang, Chien-ping and San-chou Hsien. They are found in all places lending assistance to one another. Accordingly your servant Yü-lu despatched, on the 25 Nov., Col. Cheng Nan-sen, of Shantung, with all his foot-soldiers to Chao-yang to lend assistance when occasion offers. He has been instructed to order the several bodies of troops to keep one another informed and to support oneanother in their measures. They are in nowise to relax their diligence.

It is reported that northwards near Hsin-li-tun and Ko-la-tao-likai, beyond the borders, there were also bands of rebels burning, killing and robbing. These places all adjoin Manchuria and it is to be seriously apprehended that they will make their way thither and create an uprising. In the vicinity of Kang-ping, moreover, there are roads leading in all directions. The country is open and spacious. Your servants, therefore, on the 23rd Nov., decided to send thither Gen. Chang Yung-ching with his infantry forces, and to order the horse and foot soldiers now at the eastern border, to proceed to Chang-wu-tai-mên, Hsin-li-tun and the vicinity of Urga, for the protection of those localities. Two battalions of

Manchu troops and the white-bordered banner of cavalry from the Chieh Sheng Army are attached to the forces of Brigadier Kuo-chuan, and ordered to proceed to Fa-ku-mên, Kang-ping Hsien, Liao-hai-tun and the country of the Korchin Mongols, to unite in guarding these places and as a reinforcement for the troops.

Teng-sheng-a has been instructed to take seasonable measures for putting down the rebellion. Should we receive any further information a further memorial will be submitted.

This memorial is reverently submitted etc. etc.

Translated by
Ch. Denby Jr.
Second Secretary.

Enclosure 3 in No 1448

Imperial Decree - Dec. 12th 1891.

Yeh Chi-chao,(1) and others, have presented a memorial giving the particulars of victories gained over the bands of rebels by the imperial troops, in their attack upon them at Yü-shu-lin and other places.

As the territory of the Ka-la-chin and other Mongol banners had suffered from rebellious disturbances, an imperial decree ordered Yeh Chi-chao to despatch troops for their defense. The said Provincial Commander-in-chief thereupon ordered Col. Pan Wang-tsai to advance from Wu-hu-ma-liang and, step by step, to overcome the rebels. On the 29th day of the 10th Moon (30th Nov.) he arrived at Yü-shu-lin and engaged them in battle. More than 2000 rebels blocked up the entrances to the streets and offered a determined resistance. Capt Chiang Kuang-tung and other officers, leading on their brave soldiers in several divisions, attacked them on all sides. The battle raged during a space of four hours and the rebels were entirely defeated. Many horses and arms were taken. The rebels in the vicinity hearing of the engagement came to their comrades assistance. They were met by detached companies of troops and overcome. In these engagements several leaders clad in yellow garments were killed and more than 100 rebels, both mounted and on foot, fell. The usurping prince, Chi Yao-shih, and the pretended general, Hou Jun-hui, and three others were all put to death.

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(1) Commander in chief of Chihli.

Afterwards the troops advanced to the defeat of the rebels living at Hsi-chiao-tou and at Yeh-po-shou and vicinity eastward of Chien-chang. Here were gathered together for purposes of murder and robbery Liao-Kuai and other leaders, in command of more than a thousand men. On the 3rd Dec., Lieut.-Gen'l. Nieh Shih-cheng led troops to their destruction. Lieut.-Col. Yeh Yü-piao, and other officers, attacked the rebels on the right and left and put to death Liao-Kuai and four hundred of his followers and took many guns, cannons, carts, horses, flags and drums. The rebel horde fled in confusion.

Nieh Shih-cheng has now led his various companies with great rapidity to the vicinity of Hei-shui for the overthrow of another band of rebels, and the important highways near Ping-chuan and Chien-chang are now open to traffic. Orders have been issued to Yeh Chi-chao to command the officers and soldiers to avail of this favorable occasion to advance and with united efforts to overcome the rebellion - It is imperative to wipe out every company of the rebels of the several Mongol banners and to allow none to escape, in order to restore order to these outlying regions and peace to the country.

Respect This.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 8 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 9 1892

To minister
11 Feb

Sep.

Legation of the United States.
Peking December 24th 1891.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Requests an allowance for a
teacher of Chinese

Dep.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 24th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that, acting under the instructions of the Hon. Secretary of State, I have, since arriving in Peking, diligently devoted myself to the study of the Chinese language. The expense of a teacher has heretofore been paid by myself. I have now the honor to request that the Department will authorize the payment, in future, of his wages, amounting to Mexican dollars one hundred and fifty, per annum, to be made out of the contingent fund of this legation, or that it will authorize a separate draft to be drawn therefor.

In explanation of this request I have the honor to state that no foreigner ever reaches such a proficiency in this most difficult language as to dispense with constant study. In all other legations in Peking where secretaries of legation or Consular students are required to study Chinese teachers are provided at the expense of their respective governments.

Should this request be granted, the teacher or writer thus employed will also assist, when occasion requires, in conducting the Chinese correspondence of the legation.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Ch. Denby Jr.
Second Secretary.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File. aah
FEB 26 1892

No. 1449.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 28. 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
FEB 24 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

The Emperor has begun to study English.

Synopsis

Some details as to the life and habits of the Emperor.

No. 1449

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 28. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

It may be of some interest to you, as indication of progress in China, to know that the Emperor has commenced the study of the English language. Two students of the Tung-wen College are his teachers. They attend him every morning at one o'clock. For several days they were required to kneel in his presence but latterly they have been permitted to stand while giving him his lesson. It is said that he has

a

a remarkable memory and is learning fast. This addition to his ordinary labors shows that he is possessed of considerable firmness and determination. I suppose that he does more work than any other sovereign in the world. His day commences at 12 P.M. He first sees the members of his Privy Council; then he devotes an hour to the study of the Manchurian language; then he studies English; then receives one or more members of the various Boards, and then the Governors, Viceroys, and other officials who have come to Peking to be presented and for instructions. Whenever any of the numerous Boards has any thing to communicate to the Emperor, two of their number go to the palace at two a.m. They wait sometimes two hours before one of them is ordered to the Imperial presence. The Emperor receives them alone. He is seated on a raised platform; they are on their knees. It is said that the Ministers who thus attend the Emperor take some pains to pad their knees with cushions. The Manchurian teacher of the Emperor is Prince Ching, the head of the Tsung-li Yamēn. He goes to the palace every day at twelve o'clock P.M., and remains there until four A.M. It is said that he is consulted by the Emperor on all the questions that come before him. After the receptions are over the Emperor rides on horseback and prastises shooting with the bow and arrow. These exercises are "de rigeur"; they are prescribed and cannot be avoided. A given period of time is allotted to them by ancient custom which amounts to law. The Emperor retires about two P.M. His journeyings to the various temples where he officiates are always made in the early morning. The diet of the Emperor is rigorously prescribed. It is supposed that he takes his meals alone. Should he desire to partake of any article not on the menu the Board having charge of the Imperial table must be consulted before he is supplied. A son of Prince Ching is also studying English under a competent teacher. It is matter of regret to Foreigners that the Emperor is not physically strong, and that there is danger that he will not be long-lived. It is believed that he favors progress.

I trust that these details will not be considered as too undignified for transmission.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ans. as by report of Con. Bureau
A.A.A.
FEB 26 1892

2 incls

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 29 1892

No. 1450.

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 24 1892
RECEIVED.

Peking December 28th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Appointment of Mr. Fuller as Vice-Consul at Chefoo requested.

Synopsis

Mr. Fuller's temporary appointment as Vice-Consul has never been ratified by the Department.

No. 1450.

Legation of the United States.
Peking December 28th 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I was informed by the Consul-General, under date of Nov. 12th 1887, that he had, in accordance with the Consular Regulations then in force, which are the same as Sec. 87 of the Regulations of 1888, temporarily appointed Mr. W. R. Fuller to act as United

States Vice-Consul at Chefoo to fill an existing vacancy. He also stated that he had reported his action to the Department.

It does not appear from any record in this Legation that Mr. Fuller's temporary appointment as Vice-Consul has been confirmed by the Department. I have, therefore, to request that Mr. W. R. Fuller be now appointed Vice-Consul for the United States at Chefoo, China, and that his commission be transmitted in order that I may procure his exequatur in the usual way.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 1451 ackd by tel file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 11 1892

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 31. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Injurious Proclamation made by the Imperial General in Mongolia.

Synopsis.
Encloses communication of the French Minister setting forth extracts therefrom.

No. 1451

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 31. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of a communication which has been circulated by the Minister of the French Republic. It relates to the late massacres of native Christians in Mongolia, and sets forth extracts from a proclamation issued by the General commanding the Imperial troops, who excuses these massacres. In accordance with your late telegram, wherein I was directed to sign no more joint despatches until

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I had received further instructions, I declined to sign such a paper. The Diplomatic Body, thereupon, delegated Mr. von Brandt to make verbal representations to the Foreign Office deprecating such proclamations as the on referred to.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure

Communication of the Minister of the French Republic.

Peking Dec 26. 1891.

Dear Colleague:

I have the honor to address to you, herewith, the copy of a translation of a proclamation which has been published at Dakeou, a locality situated in the part of Eastern Mongolia which is attached administratively to the Province of Pe-tche-li and in which took place, last month, the massacre of many native Christians, the destruction and the pillage of their houses, churches, orphan asylums, and other missionary establishments. You will see that the General Yé who is charged with the repression of the troubles, has found nothing better to explain the conduct of the local Mandarins who before his arrival in the country had allowed the Christians to be massacred without any intervention whatever, than to admit that the crimes of the bandits called Tsai-li-ti were up to a certain point excusable. "These malefactors, he says in an order addressed to the Prefect of Ping-tchuan-tcheou author of the proclamation, declare that they wish to cause to disappear Catholic Missions, in order to satisfy their revenge. Already they have burnt and destroyed, one after another, the missions of this prefecture (Pakeou) and some of San-chi-kia-tze. It has been found out in these places that the religious establishments in question contained in their cellars innumerable bodies of children. There were also discovered twenty or thirty young girls who have been retaken by their families. They did not ravage the localities. One sees sufficiently in these facts the manifest proof that the bandits had contracted a profound hatred of the missions and hastened to avenge themselves. Since on this occasion the religious establishments have been burnt and there have been discovered bones of the dead bodies of children, the sentiment of hatred which has been manifested was not without motive."

It is not without interest to compare this passage with the one which immediately precedes it. "They, the bandits, now betake themselves in the country to pillage and incendiarism, and strike many of the people. These are veritable crimes."

It is not necessary to press upon you, my dear Colleague, the necessity to call attention of the Foreign Office to this odious conduct of the General of Division. Ye, and to point out the new dangers which will arise to the missions — that the General was sent to protect — from these false allegations. They seem to be intended to excuse in advance, all the crimes that may be committed against Christianity. I think that under the circumstances our Colleagues would be willing to join in a Collective letter to the Foreign Office showing the consequences that may follow such conduct and demanding redress

(Signed) G. Lemaire.

Ackd by No. File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 11 1892

No. 1452

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 31. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acknowledges Despatches.

No. 1452

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 31. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches,

No. 669 dated October 30. 1891,
" 670 " " 31. "
" 671 " " " "
" 672 " " " "

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Sep. McKiahhofer

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 8 1892

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 14. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 7 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Martin
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Salary Account for
quarter ending Decr. 31. 1891.

Sep.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 4. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, my salary account for the quarter ending December 31. 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Howard Martin.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
FEB 26 1892

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 26 1892

No. 1453.

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 24 1892
RECEIVED.

Peking January 5th 1892.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Progress of Rebellion in Mongolia

Synopsis

Success of Imperial troops. A speedy conclusion certain.

No. 1453.

Legation of the United States.
Peking January 5th 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The Peking Gazette continues to publish memorials from the generals engaged in suppressing the rebellion in Mongolia, reporting the unvarying success of the imperial forces.

The miserable peasant-rebels, armed with Chinese flint-locks, are no match for Viceroy Li's foreign-drilled troops, equipped with the best modern long-range rifles. In every encounter they are defeated with immense loss of life, while the government troops count their casualties by several killed and wounded only. It is estimated that of the insurgents nearly 20.000 have so far fallen. The prisoners taken, who number very few as compared with the slain, are put to death as soon as their voluntary connection with the uprising is ascertained, without the formality of a reference to the throne. In every stronghold captured there are, however, found many innocent people, coerced or overawed into joining the rebellion against their will. These are at once set at liberty or sent under escort to their homes.

Whatever possibility of cooperation may have at first existed among the insurgent forces has now been destroyed. They have been widely dispersed by repeated defeats and are now found in scattered parties, of a few hundred each, entrenched in rudely fortified villages or hidden away in the mountains. These are being one by one hunted down and the final complete suppression of the rebellion cannot be long delayed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Ack by subject 14 Mar

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 11 1892

No. 1454.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 11. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The proclamation excusing atrocities against native Christians in Mongolia.

Synopsis.

The Yamên states that it has been withdrawn and the conduct of the magistrate will be enquired into.

No. 1454

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 11. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 1451 of Decr. 31, I transmitted a translation of a circular relating to a proclamation which had been issued by the Magistrate of Ting Chüan Chow wherein the atrocities committed by bandits against the native Christians had been excused and palliated. The matter having been brought to the attention of the Foreign Office by the Dean of the Diplomatic Body, the ministers declared that orders had been sent to Li Hung Chang to institute an enquiry into the behavior of the magistrate in question, who, besides issuing this proclamation, had been guilty of several other omissions of duty; that Li Hung Chang's answer had not been received, but it would be communicated to the Dean as soon as it came; that the proclamation had been already withdrawn some time ago, and that the General was less to blame as he had no personal knowledge of the state of affairs and had only represented the information received from the civil authori

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

us Encl. referred

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 11 1892

No. 1455.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 12th, 1892.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing Salary Account
for Quarter Ending December
31st 1891.

No 1455 One Enclosure

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 12th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a statement of my salary account for the quarter ending the 31st of December 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

uplicate

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.

No 1456.

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
MAR 10 1892
REC'D
RECEIVED.

Peking, January 12th, 1892.

— Mr. Charles Denby —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing Rent Account for Quarter ending December 31st, 1891.

No 1456. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 12th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to
hand you enclosed a statement
56. of the Rent Account of this
Legation for the Quarter ending
the 31st of December 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant.
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

Rudolph

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 11 1892

No. 1457.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 12th 1892.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

— Subject —
Enclosing Return of passports issued during quarter ended December 31st 1891.

No 1457. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 12th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a statement of the passports issued at this Legation during the quarter ending December 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

Separate. Mr. Knickerbocker

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 11 1892

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 14th, 1892.

— Mr. F. D. Cheshire —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Abstract. —

Enclosing statement of Salary Account for Quarter Ending December 31st, 1891.

Separate.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 14th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honour to hand you enclosed a statement of my salary account for the quarter ended December 31st, 1891.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
F. D. Cheshire.

Enclosure 1.
Statement as above.

[illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED.

Separate.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 21st, 1892.

Mr. F. D. Cheshire
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Enclosing statement of account for loss by Exchange for quarter ended December 31st, 1891.

Separate. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 21st, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of my account for Loss by Exchange for the quarter ending the 31st of December 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
F. D. Cheshire.
Interpreter to Legation

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR [illegible]

No 1458

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 21st, 1892.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Transmitting Statement of Contingent Expenses Account for Quarter Ended December 31st, 1891.

No 1458. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 21st, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of the account for 58. contingent expenses for the quarter ended December 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.
Statement as above.

Informd Hon. John A. King
March 12 1892. AAA

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 11 1892

No. 1459

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 25. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Claim of the Episcopal Missionary Society for Damages at Ichang.

Synopsis

The Consul has been directed to present it to the Viceroy.

T. K. — 6 Feb
16 "

Hon. King — 6 Feb
" " 1 "

No. 1459.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 25. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In answer to your despatch, ~~(not numbered,)~~ No 679 of December 3, last, in which you enclose a copy of a letter to Mr. John A. King from Mr. Joshua Kimber of the Protestant Episcopal Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and a copy of a despatch from the Consul at Hankow, all relating to the Ichang riot of September 3, I have the honor to state that the Consul at Hankow has been directed to demand payment, from the Viceroy Chang chi-tung, of the amount claimed by the said Missionary Society for damages done to its property. It is customary for Consuls who are on the ground to presen such claims first to the local authorities. This course is most convenient, and is preferred both by the Imperia Government and the local authorities. Should Mr. Andrews fail in his efforts to collect the damages claime the claim will be forwarded to me and will be immediately presented.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Ackd by [illegible]

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU,
MAR 11 1892

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 11 1892

No. 1460.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 25. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acknowledges Despatches.

No. 1460.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 25. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches

No.	673	of	Novr.	25.	1891.
"	674	"	"	27.	"
"	675	"	Decr.	1.	"
"	676	"	"	3.	"
"	677	"	"	3.	"
"	678	"	"	3.	"

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 10 1892
RECEIVED

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU,
MAR 11 1892

No. 1461. Mr Kirckhoeffer

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 25th, 1892.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing statement of account for Loss by Exchange for the Quarter ended 31st of December 1891.

No. 1461. One Enclosure

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 25th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of my
61. account for loss by Exchange for the Quarter ended the 31st of December 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Treasury for its information -
So acknowledge.
MAR 21 1892 aa

To Treasury - 22 Mar. -
Ans'd [illegible] -

DIPLOMATIC
MAR 21 1892

No. 1462

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 29. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Increased circulation of Subsidiary Chinese Coins.

Synopsis.

These coins are spreading over China and in Corea; and are largely circulated at Hong Kong.

No. 1462.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 29. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The coins of the mint, which was established by Chang Chi Tung at Canton three years ago, are being widely circulated in China. They are extensively used not only in the Southern ports, but also in Shanghai, Tientsin, Chefoo, and in Corea. They are even said to be supplanting the subsidiary coins issued at Hong Kong. By the orders of Li Hung Chang and his brother Li Hang Chang, Viceroy of Canton, the various guilds are required to do all that they can to circulate these coins. It is understood that twelve ten cent pieces are issued for a dollar by the mint. Methods are now being mooted at Hong Kong for the exclusion from circulation of any coins except those issued by Great Britain or the Colony. A precedent is found in the action of the Council at Singapore, which, some years ago, passed a law against the circulation of foreign copper coins. It was formerly very difficult to secure at Peking any subsidiary coins, but now the agency of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank here pays them out in large quantities. This action may be the result of the competition with Chinese coins above indicated.

I

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

erby private

22 Mar

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 21 1892

No. 1463.

Legation of the United States.
Peking January 30th 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject
A review of the important
events transpired in 1891.

Synopsis
Audience. Riots on the Yangtze
Imperial proclamation. Mongolian
insurrection. Opening of Chunking
Imperial reception. Obscene
placards. Influenza. Business

No. 1463.

Legation of the United States.
Peking January 30th 1892

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

This legation has written so much touching events, as they transpired, in China, that an extended notice thereof would seem to be unnecessary. Nevertheless I have the honor to forward the following slight review of the important events of the year.

The audience, which the Emperor of his own will and unsolicited granted to the foreign representatives, on the 6th day of last March, was the most important event in the early part of this year. It was supposed that this audience would have great weight with the people, would show that China had at last realized that foreign powers were it's equals and that good-will to foreigners on the part of the people would result therefrom.

It is apparent that this event has had no material effect in removing from the minds of the populace their deep-seated hostility to foreigners. This year has been signalized by more antagonism to foreigners and native Christians than any other period.

May 14th the first outbreak occurred at Wuhu. The foreign customs staff bravely defended the settlement and no loss of life occurred, but all the foreign women and children fled from the city. This trouble, without much doubt, was caused by the machinations of the Ko-lao Hui secret society.

Riots followed at Nanking Wuchow, Tanyang, Gee Kow-hsien, Kiukiang, Woosieh, Wuchen, Taku-tang and other minor places and finally at Ichang.

No American was injured during the riots, nor was any American property destroyed except at Nanking and Ichang.

During the progress of these riots the foreign representatives were urgently demanding stringent protective and punitory measures. By their influence an imperial proclamation, which is a notable paper, was issued the 14th day of June. This proclamation was slowly circulated by the imperial government. I took measures to have it sent to every American mission immediately.

The action of the naval authorities, who had issued stringent orders to the warships on this station, more than any other cause resulted in staying the progress of the riots. The Viceroy Chang Chih-tung was notified by a British commander that if a riot occurred at Hankow or Wuchang, he would fire on the rioters. No riots occurred in those cities.

In the month of September the Foreign Office was notified by the foreign representatives that the matters at issue would be referred by them to their respective governments. In accordance therewith a joint paper was prepared and signed and sent to the foreign powers which are represented at Peking. It was therein recommended that foreign men-of-war should be stationed at the ports on the Yangtze and at Shanghai and Canton, and that China should be made liable to pay their expenses. (See my despatch No. 1389 of 17th Sept, 1891). Thereafter, until the recent riots in Mongolia, there was no destruction of any importance in China.

In the month of November, bands of brigands in Eastern Mongolia attacked several villages, inhabited by native Christians, and killed four hundred people and burnt and destroyed all property belonging to the Christians. The movement grew into an insurrection against the government and assumed large proportions. Imperial troops were sent against the rebels; about twenty thousand people were killed. The rebellion is now over. The rebels have either been killed in battle or decapitated after capture.

During this year Chungking was opened to foreign trade.

The new Russian Minister, Count Cassini, and the French Minister, Mr. G. Lemaire, arrived at Peking in November. They applied for audience by the Emperor. Their application was granted and a hall called the Cheng Kuang Tien was designated as the place of reception. This hall is located in the grounds adjoining the palace ordinarily occupied by the Emperor, but not in what is generally known as the "prohibited city". These gentlemen declined to attend at this hall and demanded that they should be received in one of the imperial palaces which are ordinarily occupied by the Emperor. Their demand was refused and they persisted in declining an audience.

This question will come before the foreign representatives next month, who will be called on to decide whether they will make the Emperor a New Year's call in the hall mentioned. The Cheng Kuang Tien is the same hall in which Baron Biegeleben, Minister of Austria-Hungary was received.

It is supposed that obscene placards and pamphlets have been exciting causes to riots. Persistent efforts have been made by the foreign representatives to prevent the circulation of these publications, but hitherto without any great result.

Influenza has prevailed to an alarming extent in China and many foreigners have suffered thereby.

Business has not been as prosperous as in some former years.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject + file.
aa
MAR 21 1892

✓ 22 mar

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 21 1892

No. 1464.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 30th 1892.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Degradation of officials because of recent rebellion.

Synopsis
The magistrate who issued a proclamation justifying attacks on native Christians degraded and banished.

It is supposed that obscene placards and pamphlets have been exciting causes to riots. Persistent efforts have been made by the foreign representatives to prevent the circulation of these publications, but hitherto without any great result.

Influenza has prevailed to an alarming extent in China and many foreigners have suffered thereby.

Business has not been as prosperous as in some former years.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject & file.
aa
MAR 21 1892

✓ 22 mar

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 21 1892

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

No 1464.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 30th 1892.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Degradation of officials because of recent rebellion.

Synopsis

The magistrate who issued a proclamation justifying attacks on native Christians degraded and banished.

One enclosure.

No. 1464.

Legation of the United States.
Peking January 30th 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 1451, of Dec. 31st last, I submitted a copy of a circular issued by the French Minister, referring to a proclamation posted by the magistrate at Ping-chuan Chou, wherein the said magistrate excused the atrocities committed against native Christians by the rebels.

In my despatch No. 1454, of the 11th inst, I reported the action of the diplomatic body thereon. In response to the representations of the Doyen the Yamên stated that Li Hung-chang had been ordered to investigate into the conduct of the said official and report thereon.

Nothing further has been heard from the Yamên on the subject, but the Peking Gazette of the 28th inst. contains an imperial decree wherein the Emperor states that he has received a report from Li Hung-chang and Kueipin, on the officials at Chao-yang and vicinity, the scene of the recent rebellion. He states that, long before actual warfare began, that locality was infested with bands of robbers who inflicted serious injuries on the Mongol and Christian population. The officials took no measures to subdue them and the outbreak assumed large proportions. The Chih-hsien, or District Magistrate, at Chao-yang, is charged with remaining in his office, writing verses and drinking wine, indifferent to his duties toward his people. His record also shows that at a previous post he had borrowed money from wealthy citizens and had made so many debts as scarcely to be able to get away.

The district magistrate at Chien-chang is charged with inaction and with issuing false reports as to outrages committed by rebels in his jurisdiction.

The magistrate at Ping-chuan, however, the object of the French Minister's remonstrances, comes in for the most serious charge of all. He is stated not to have afforded protection to Christian chapels in the streets of his own city, with having issued exaggerated reports of the numbers of the rebels, and with lightly giving heed to false reports regarding Christians and basing thereon proclamations calculated to arouse the popular feelings against them.

Li Hung-chang and Kueipin had recommended that these officials be deprived of rank and office, but the Emperor remarks that such punishment is inadequate to their offence and orders that they be degraded and banished to the forts on the frontier.

A translation of this decree
1/464 is enclosed herewith.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure.

Translation of a decree from the Peking Gazette Jan. 28th 1892.

Translated by
Ch. Denby Jr.
Second Secretary.

Enclosure 1 in No 1464

Translation from the Peking Gazette, Jan. 28th 1892.

Imperial Decree-

Li Hung-chang and Kueipin have presented a memorial setting forth the result of the investigation which, in obedience to Our instructions, they made into the official misconduct of the magistrates at Chao-yang and other places.

Long before the evil disposed persons of Teho had created disturbances at Chao-yang, the departments of Ping-chuan and Chien-chang were over-run with robbers. The Mongols underwent at their hands great cruelties and the Christians suffered the burning of their chapels and the murder of their people. The magistrates of these departments were guilty of such carelessness and neglect that bands of rowdies profited of the occasion to excite the populace and bring about a serious outbreak. Remissness in control is an inexcusable fault.

In the report now before us it is stated that Liao Lun-ming, district magistrate at Chao-yang, though not charged with running away at a warning of danger, was guilty of passing all his time in his yamên writing verses and drinking wine, regardless of the interests of his people. Furthermore he was continually borrowing money of wealthy citizens and running deeply into debt. When he was transferred from Chih-feng to Chao-yang, the merchants did their utmost to hinder his departure. His conduct has been most disgraceful.

As to Chang Zou-kai, district magistrate at Chien-chang, it is charged that when the outbreak was just commencing he took no measures to guard against it and, after the trouble was over, he failed to report the truth concerning the murders and destruction of property at San-shih-chia-tzu. With his heart bent on deceiving he hoped by concealment to shirk responsibility.

Wên Pu-nêng, acting department magistrate at Ping-chuan, has a reputation for trickery. He was dilatory in the performance of his duties. He was even unable to protect the neighboring chapels in the very streets of his city. In his official reports he vastly exaggerated the number of the rebels. In speaking of the burning of Christian chapels and the murder of Christians he lightly gave credence to false stories and fabricated a proclamation calculated to stir up the popular mind.

These three officials, by their covetousness, lying and inability have brought an inheritance of evil to the places under them. They are truly worthy of contempt.

The memorialists pray that Liao Lun-ming be degraded from office and be forever disqualified for official employment, and that Chang Tsou-kai and Wên Pei-nien be degraded from office. This penalty seems inadequate to their offence. We command that Liao Lun-ming, Chang Tsou-kai and Wên Pei-nien all be degraded and banished to the frontier forts. Let them by their exertions there atone for their offences and serve as an example to others.

As to the other matters in the memorial, let it be as the memorialists suggest.

Let the proper board take notice. Respect this.

r Kirchhoefer

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 21 1892

No 1465.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

— Mr Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing duplicate salary account for quarter ended December 31st, 1891.

No 1465 One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir: —

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of my salary account for the Quarter ended December 31st, 1891. 65.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.

Duplicate statement as above.

Bookkeeper

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 21 1892

No 1466.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —
Enclosing Duplicate Rent
Account for quarter ended
the 31st of December 1891.

1/1466

No 1466. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of the Rent Account of this Legation for the quarter ended December 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Duplicate Statement as above.

c

Randolph

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 21 1892

No. 1467.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of passports issued during the quarter ended the 31st of December 1891.

1/146

6

1467.

No. 1467 One enclosure.

Legation of the United States
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate returns of Passports issued at this Legation during the quarter ended December 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Duplicate return as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

No 1468.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

— Mr Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of account of Contingent Expenses for the quarter ending December 31st, 1891.

No 1468 One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of my account for Contingent Expenses for the quarter ending the 31st of December 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Duplicate statement as above

Kuesshafes

No. 1469.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 21 1892

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of account for loss by Exchange for quarter ended the 31st of December 1891.

No. 1469 One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of my account for loss by Exchange, during the quarter ended the 31st of December 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Duplicate statement as above.

ookkeeper

Separate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 21 1892

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

— Wm. F. D. Cheshire —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of account for Loss by Exchange for the quarter ended the 31st of December 1891.

— - - - —

Dup. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of my account for loss by exchange for the quarter ended the 31st of December 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
F. D. Cheshire
Interpreter to Legation.

Enclosure 1. Duplicate Statement as above.

[illegible]

Separate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BU
MAR 21 1892

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

— Mr. F. D. Cheshire —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of account for salary for quarter ending December 31st 1891.

———— - - - ————

Sep. one enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of my salary account for the quarter ending the 31st of December 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
F. D. Cheshire.
Interpreter of Legation

Enclosure 1. Duplicate statement as above.

Dip [illegible]

Ackd 22 Mar

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAR 21 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 21 1892

No. 1470.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 1. 1892.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Transmits an account
of the Mongolian Insurrection.

No. 1470.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 1. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington. D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a clipping from the North China News which contains an account of the recent Mongolian insurrection written by a Chinese Priest.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure
Clipping from North China News.

THE REBELLION IN MONGOLIA.

We append a translation of a letter written by a Chinese priest from the centre of the terrible scenes which have been enacted in the north. The letter is dated [illegible] December, and has just reached Shanghai:

There are in Mongolia two sects (the [illegible] Society ([illegible]) and the Rationalists (*Kin-tan-tao* 金丹道) whose members, gathered from every class of people, *literati*, merchants, labourers, officials, and the like have long been infamous in the country for their injustice and wickedness. One of their leaders, named Hü Yong ([illegible]) had in particular become the terror of the inhabitants on account of his burglarious habits. Finding himself watched by the local mandarins, who waited for a good opportunity to seize him, he fled away to Sankiatz ([illegible]家子) in the district of Kienchang ([illegible]), where he had many partisans and could with their help continue his life of rapine.

The [illegible] last year having been almost destroyed, the people of that district were soon reduced to misery. Impelled by hunger they applied, about the beginning of August, to the petty magistrates and to the rich merchants for grants of rice, promising to repay them in the autumn. Every one in China knows what such promises are worth. The merchants promised to comply with the request, and a day was appointed on which an equal distribution of rice was to be served out to every person, whether a native or a stranger. In the meanwhile, however, the crafty merchants secured the help of Hü Yong and, when two days after a long file of men and women, bag in hand, walked up to the rice shop, they found the brave standing by the front door. There was a moment of hesitation, but hunger was stronger than fear. They rushed on the man who, knocked down and trampled under foot by the crowd, was soon a corpse. Fearing the consequences of their act and anticipating retaliation from the dead man's *confrères*, the people agreed to lay the blame on the Christians, and the rumour was soon circulated throughout the town that the Christians were guilty of the crime. Without inquiring into the facts of the case, the Rationalists took up the cry, threats of death were freely uttered against the Christians and a riot became imminent. Message after message was sent to the *yamen*, but the appeals for protection were disregarded by the local mandarin, who contented himself by saying the reports were unfounded and there was nothing to fear. In short, help was refused.

This was the state of affairs when, on the 16th of the 10th moon (November 17th) a violent mob rushed to the residence of the missionaries at [illegible], broke into the house, seized the Chinese priest Ling, stole all they could lay their hands on and burnt church, house and orphanage. Of all the persons living there, men, women and orphans, not a single one was left alive; some were burnt in the house, others killed on the spot. Some, who escaped from the building, were soon overtaken and slaughtered. Then the mob scattered in all directions in search of new victims, and wherever houses of Christians were found, the inhabitants were murdered, their property stolen and the houses burnt to the ground.

The [illegible] work is not yet over. Two victims are still captive. Father Ling is dragged to a temple and tied fast to one of the two masts in front of it. He is called upon to apostatise. But threats are vain; he remains firm. Guns are then levelled at him, and he is shot dead; his body is immediately ripped up, and pulling from the still panting corpse, the heart, liver and lungs, the murderers fix these ghastly trophies at the top of the mast. There remains a woman with child. Kerosene oil is poured over the poor mother and they burn her alive.

After this first exploit, in which nine hundred Christian families were thus slaughtered, the rioters proceeded to Ping-chuchow ([illegible]). Another appeal for protection was made to the Sub-prefect Wèn Pu-ni ([illegible]), but, though renewed several times, it was always in vain. The rioters, however, were not yet so bold as to act openly. They sent a message to the mandarin. They had not, they said, taken arms against the government; they only asked him to carry out their revenge on Christians by burning and destroying their houses. This strange license being granted them, they entered the town, sacked and burned down the church, the orphanage and houses of the Christians. Far from opposing them, the officials and soldiers of the *yamên*, in the hope of sharing in the booty, kindly invited the plunderers to search out all the Christians, and proclaimed that any person who should give shelter to Christians would be treated as such. The complaisant Wèn Pu-ni in the meantime was spreading the rumour that in the residence of the missionaries, there was hid a huge heap of bones—bones of children devoured by cannibal foreigners, of course—and sent this piece of news by letter to General Yeh, who is said to be one of the *Kin-tan-tao*.

General Yeh no sooner received the letter than he issued a proclamation against Christians and sent copies of it everywhere. The calumny was believed, and, equally exasperated against the *Kin-tan-tao* men, the *Tsai-li* men and the Christians, the people rose up against them; the former [illegible] openly declared themselves, and a regular rebellion now broke out.

Ch'aoyang Hsien ([illegible]) was soon occupied by thousands of rebels; the prisons were broken open, all criminals were let loose and the rage of the rebels was turned against the inhabitants. Their property was seized, and themselves butchered. Several noble families were massacred and so few people escaped in that great town and the surrounding districts, that for a distance of several hundred *li* not a family has been spared.

A certain Chü (朱), one of the ringleaders, assumed the title of Emperor, and, to give himself greater prestige, took as wives and concubines several of the wives and daughters of the massacred nobles.

Another leader named Wei Lao-tao ([illegible]), renowned for magic art, gave his soldiers a spell which was supposed to preserve them from death. Every morning they were to swallow a magic pill intended to give them courage. On their flags was written 興大[illegible] *Hsing Ta Ming*, (Let us raise the dynasty of the Ming), [illegible] *Mieh Ta Ts'ing* (and destroy the present dynasty of the Ts'ing) and also [illegible]: 咱們 *yong hwa fu kuei* [illegible] *tsa men* (honours, riches, dignities are to us).

In every town or village through which the [illegible] hordes passed, they proceeded to kill all [illegible]

Fortunately, after a time, Li Hung-chang sent troops against them. On the 20th of the 10th moon (November [illegible]) the first battle was fought. The rebels numbered upwards of 10,000 men. Wei Lao-tao had taken up his position on an imperial chariot formerly given by the great Kang Hsi to the temple of Kuanti, and on which chariot the idol is seated for the annual pageant. While the troops of Li Hung-chang attacked the rebels in front, the soldiers of the [illegible] of Kinchang Hsien fell on their rear; they were thus defeated, 470 men were killed, more than a hundred made prisoners and Wei Lao-tao himself was slain. The remainder escaped to San-kiatz, but the Jeho forces followed them up, slaying some 40 of them.

The rebels of the *Kintantao* sect still numbered upwards of 10,000 men. Several more battles were fought. The rebels, though superior in number, being badly drilled and too confident in their magic, were defeated and their sham Emperor made prisoner. Two mandarins were also killed.

I hear that among the rebels there are many rioters who came here from Kiang-nan after the disturbances.

Among the imperial troops, there are also many wicked men doing great harm to the populations they have come to defend. This year the crop failed again and the number of the poor has considerably increased. The few families who were still well-off have been robbed by the imperial soldiers of all the provisions they had in store. They cannot obtain protection from the mandarins, as these only care to get rich at the people's expense.

Here is a new instance of the cruelty of the rebels. A mandarin, unable to oppose them, had piled up on several carts his family, his provisions and his riches. He had just arrived at the foot of the mountains when he was overtaken by the rebels, despoiled of all that he had, and slain. The next morning, wishing to make certain that they had left nothing unplundered, the rebels came again to the spot and there discovered an infant crying for food. Unmoved by this pitiful sight, they caught hold of the child, seized it by the legs and pulled them apart, tearing the poor infant in two. Would to God that this may be the end of our calamities.

uckhoefer

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 8 1892

Sep.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 2nd 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 7 1892
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Salary account

Two enclosures.

Sep.

Legation of the United States.
Peking February 2nd 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, my salary
1 account for the quarter ending Dec. 31st 1891 and my account
2 for gain by exchange thereon.

Against the salary account I have drawn my draft as usual.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Second Secretary

Enclosures:
As above

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
APR 12 1892

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 7 1892
RECEIVED.

No. 1471.

Legation of the United States.
Peking February 3rd 1892.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

The question of New Year's visits and reception by the Emperor.

Synopsis

Mr. Denby refused to agree not to receive the Chinese officials on our New Year, and refused to insist on being admitted to the palace proper on the Emperor's reception.

No 1471.

Legation of the United States.
Peking February 3rd 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report to you, confidentially, two incidents that have lately occurred, at the meetings of the foreign representatives here.

A meeting was called, in the early part of January, to consider the propriety of the foreign representatives refusing to receive the members of the Tsungli Yamên and the heads of the various boards, on the occasion of our New Year. The argument used by the supporters of this extraordinary proposal was that the Chinese Government had not done it's full duty, in certain matters relating to the recent riots, and that a show of resentment on our part would produce a good effect.

I announced that I did not approve of this proposition; that the time was inauspicious for breaking off friendly relations with the Chinese officials; that, as to the matter of restoring to his position the offending Taotai at Ubulu, the affair was not finally settled; that time sufficient had not elapsed for action in the cases of the Mongolian officials who were charged with neglect of duty toward native Christians and that, in any event, a refusal to receive simple official calls was not the proper mode to show resentment.

My sole antagonism to this scheme broke it down, on the ground that if one minister received New year's calls all must. There was much talk, however, about the cooperative policy having, by my action been finished and destroyed. I said that I did not see that a refusal to abide by the will of the majority, in a matter involving the necessity of gratuitously insulting the leading officials at Peking, involved the necessity of ceasing to make common cause in the matter of protecting foreigners in China, but, even if that result followed, I would not consent to the proposal made.

Events quickly justified my action. The visits came off and will be returned. The government finally deposed the offending taotai at Wuhu and all the Mongolian officials who stood by and saw the native Christians persecuted and murdered.

Somewhat the converse of this affair came off, the 30th ult, when I was no longer in a minority.

You have been informed that the Russian and French Ministers, under instructions from their governments, have refused to accept an audience anywhere except in the palace proper. As the time is near for the foreign representatives to make a joint call on the

Emperor, a meeting was called to determine whether we would confirm the action of our two colleagues, or would accept an invitation to go to the Cheng Kuang Tien, the new hall which the government has prepared, to take the place of the Tzu Kuang Ko where the last audience took place.

It was announced by the Dean that the diplomatic body had not been consulted by the Russian and French ministers, when they decided to go nowhere but to the palace, and that the members thereof were not bound by that decision, and that, for himself, he saw no reason to refuse to go to the new hall.

I followed in the same line, stating that the new hall was unobjectionable, was suitable for audiences and receptions, had lately been enlarged, repaired and decorated, was in that part of the imperial grounds where the Emperor resided, that I did not feel authorized to insist on going to the palace to which, from ancient times, foreigners were not admitted, that, if seclusion and isolation were the custom and practice of China, I did not feel called upon to offend the conservative ideas of the

Empire in a matter of mere etiquette, and that, as for personal or official dignity, it could not be shocked by attending at any reputable place where the Emperor and his court would receive us.

I admitted that I preferred that we should be received at the palace proper, but solely on the ground that such a reception would, or might, tend to make the people of China respect us more than they now did, by tending to show that China recognized the equality of our governments with itself. I stated that such a result was hoped from the last audience but, in fact, riots had commenced in May and lasted until December, and that I had no great hope of any good result following from the expected reception.

I was willing to do all that could be done to secure a reception in the palace, but I was not willing to say that if I could not be received in the palace I would go nowhere.

Much argument followed but the general trend of opinion was opposed to our demanding admission to the palace as a *sine qua non*. The meeting broke up without arriving at any certain conclusion. We shall wait until the Yamēn shall send us invitations to a reception and then, probably, the matter will again come up.

I mention, collaterally, that the very decided stand taken by the minister of Germany seems to indicate some feeling against Russia and France. The papers have been full of rumors of an alliance between these two countries touching eastern matters, and naturally jealousy on the part of Germany is evoked. In any event, I doubted whether you would approve of my refusing a courteous invitation to make a new year's call on the Emperor, on the sole ground that the locale designated was not in the palace proper. It is a matter of no great importance whether such a call be made or not, but the occasion at least evinces progress and a desire to assimilate etiquette here to that of other countries.

If all my colleagues had determined to stand out for the palace proper, I should probably have excused myself from attending — at a detached hall all alone — and this simply because I do not care to be too conspicuous or to sever myself entirely from my colleagues. As the matter stands, however, at present I have sufficient backing, and I will go to the new hall if we finally fail in securing admittance to the palace itself.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

kieckhoefer

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 7 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 8 1892

No. 1472.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 4th, 1892.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —
Enclosing Statement of Repairs Account for Six months ending 31st of December 1891.

No 1472   One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 4th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of my Repairs Account for the six months ending the 31st of December 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

ck by the office

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1892

No. 1473
Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 8. 1892

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 7 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acknowledges Despatches.

Synopsis.

Will answer interrogatory circular regarding the precious metals as soon as the proper data can be had.

No. 1473.

Legation of the United States,
Peking February 8. 1892

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 680 of the 7th December last, on a question of extradition, also of your circular containing certain interrogatories relating to the precious metals. I have to say that information as to the coinage of silver can only be had at Canton. In anticipation of this circular, I have requested the Consul at Canton to send me data, but in the present state of communication it will take some time to get a reply.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Nickhoefer

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 8 1892

No 1474.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 7 1892
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 10th, 1892.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —
Enclosing duplicate expense account for six months ending December 31st 1891.

of communication [illegible]
the same time by [illegible]
reply

No. 1474. One enclosure

Legation of the United States
Peking, February 10th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of my account for repairs for the six months ending the 31st of December 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

1/1474

Enclosure 1. Duplicate statement as above.

R

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
APR 8 1892

Ack 12

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU,
APR 9 1892

No 1475.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 7 1892
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking February 12th 1892.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Transit passes

Synopsis
Demand for passes made from points near Shanghai. The Minister thinks it advisable not to press it.

Three enclosures.

No. 1475.

Legation of the United States.
Peking February 12th 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I lately received from the Consul-General information that he had applied to the Taotai for transit passes, for Mr. Charles McCaslin, to bring cotton to Shanghai, from several points distant fifty miles, and less, from Shanghai, and that this application had been refused.

Thereupon I sent to the
Yamên a communication, of
which a copy is herewith
1/1475 appended. I received from the
Yamên a reply of which a
2/1475 copy is also enclosed.

The Yamên declines to direct the Taotai to issue the said passes, upon the ground that a British subject had, some years ago, been refused this request and the places designated were not far from Shanghai.

In answer to a communication from me, the Consul-General now informs me that the application of the British subject, above alluded to, was made in 1889, and was refused by the Taotai because the places, for which the passes were requested, were within one hundred *li* of Shanghai and that the transit pass regulations were consequently not applicable. He also states that no reference was ever made of this case to H.B.M's Legation here.

I have sent to the Consul-General a despatch, of which a
475 copy is hereto annexed, wherein I state that it would be inadvisable to further press this matter. The treaty rules, as to transit passes, are found at page 177 of the "Treaties etc.,"

between the United States

1889 ?

and Other Powers", Ed. of 1877.

Omit

Some care must be exercised here not to press on China questions which would, or might, lead to a general revision of the treaties. The concessions heretofore made to the foreign powers, in the matters of the tariff, coastwise trade and transit passes might be attacked in a general revision of the treaties, and we had better, in my opinion, leave well enough alone.

All of which I submit for your approval.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. Mr. Denby to the Foreign Office No. 40, Dec. 23rd, 1891.
2. Foreign Office to Mr. Denby No. 45, Dec. 29th, 1891.
3. Mr. Denby to the Consul-General No. 224, Feb. 12th, 1892.

Enclosure 1 in No 1475.

Mr. Denby to the Foreign Office.

No 40. Dec. 23rd 1891.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a communication from the Consul-General of the United States, at Shanghai, wherein he states that he lately made application to the Shanghai Taotai for sixty-four transit passes for Charles McCaslin, a citizen of the United States doing business at Shanghai.

This application was made in the usual way, but the Taotai refused to issue such passes. The Taotai bases his refusal to issue these passes on the ground that the places at which Mr McCaslin proposes to buy the cotton for which he asks the passes are near to Shanghai and that

✓ Mr. Mc Caslin can buy the cotton at Shanghai.

The distances from Shanghai to the places for which the passes are asked are: Ching Shan, about 150 *li*; Feng Hsien about 108 *li*; Nan Lin about 48 *li*.

Under the treaties it is competent for foreign merchants to buy produce in the interior, and to procure transit passes, under which it may be transported to the open ports.

The treaties use the words "in the interior". They do not fix any territorial limits within which transit passes may be used or granted. They do not confer upon Taotais the right arbitrarily to establish limits in which transit passes may be granted. Nor do they authorize the Taotais to dictate to the foreign merchant the localities in which he may buy goods.

I have to request, therefore, that Your Highness and Your Excellencies will send instructions to the Shanghai Taotai to issue the transit passes required by Mr. McCaslin.

I have etc.,

(Sg'd) Charles Denby.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. 45. Dec. 29th 1891.

Your Excellency:

Upon the 23rd inst, the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States wherein he stated [despatch quoted in full]

With reference to this case the Prince and Ministers would observe that, on the 8th of December inst., they received a communication from the Minister Superintendent of Southern Trade, stating that the Shanghai Taotai had represented that the American firm styled Ning Tseng had applied for transit passes to purchase cotton in Feng Hsien and other places, but, as the said places are in the jurisdiction of the prefecture of Sung Kiang, and not far from Shanghai, requests have never been made from foreign merchants for transit passes to cover produce from there; that, in the 15th year of Kuanghsii, a British merchant named Harvie applied for transit passes to purchase cotton in Pei Tsai and Chou Pu, but Kung Taotai, following the regulations refused to grant them: this is a matter of record.

These cases are alike and the application is, therefore, refused.

The Yamen were about to address the Minister of the United States, requesting him in turn to inform the United States Consul-General. But the communication under acknowledgement having now been received from the United States Minister, the Prince and Ministers as in duty bound, following the record, send this reply and would beg that the matter be communicated to the United States Consul-General at Shanghai.

A necessary communication etc., etc., etc.,

Enclosure 3 in No. 1475.

Mr. Denby to Mr. Leonard.

No. 224. February 12th 1892.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 93, of the 25th ult., relating to the refusal of the Taotai to grant transit passes to Mr. Harvie, and stating that the matter was not brought to the attention of the British Legation here.

I have already informed you that the Yamên stands by this precedent and refuses to make an order that the transit passes, desired by Mr. McCaslin, be issued. I think it would be useless to further press the question.

In this connection I refer you to the despatch of Mr. Frelinghuysen to Mr. Young, No. 320 of Aug 8th 1884, found at page 100 Foreign

Relations 1884.

It would be desirable that an application for transit passes, referred to this Legation, should contain an affidavit that the goods sought to be transported are the *bona fide* property of an American merchant and are intended for exportation.

No construction of the meaning of the words in the treaty, "Produce purchased xxx in the interior", has *ever* never? been mutually agreed on by the Chinese Government and the treaty powers. It seems to me better not to press too urgently a demand for such a construction. It might lead to a revision of the treaties, which would not be in the interest of the foreign powers. We had better submit to occasional inconveniences than to open up questions involving the tariff, transit passes, and other questions, wherein changes would not be in our interest.

I am, etc,

(Sg'd) Charles Denby.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 8 1892

No. 1476. Ackd. with gratification 9 ap

TMENT OF STATE,
APR 7 1892
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 16th 1892.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The case of Russell & Co vs. Lin Shih-wei and others.

Synopsis
The Yamên reports that the case is settled.

One enclosure.

No 1476.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 16th 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that, on the 2nd day of May 1889, I requested the Foreign Office to order that a joint investigation be had at Foochow, in the case of Messrs Russell & Co. against Lin Shih-wei and others.

The joint investigation was ordered but the case dragged along.

I now enclose a translation of a communication from the Foreign Office, wherein it reports that the case has been settled by the payment of Taels 2700.

1/1476

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

1. Foreign Office to Mr. Denby No. 1 Feb. 13th 1892.

Enclosure in No. 1476.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. 1 Feb. 13th 1892.

Your Excellency:

Upon the 2nd of May 1889, the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States, stating that he had received a request from the United States Consul at Foochow that the Yamên order a joint investigation to be held in the case Russell & Co against Lin Shih-wei and others.

The Minister of the United States asked that orders be sent to Foochow to have a joint investigation at the earliest convenience.

The Yamên, at the time, addressed the Foochow authorities to take action in the premises and sent a reply to the Minister of the United States, which is on record.

The Tartar-General and Governor-General have now reported to the Yamên that, on the 30th Dec. 1891, they received a communication from Mr. Consul Gracey, of Foochow, to effect that the firm of Te Hsing, acting for Russell & Co, had reported that an arrangement had been made for the settlement of the claim, amounting to Taels 2700, and asked that the Magistrate be instructed to cancel the case and to release from custody Lin Shih-wei. The Tartar-General and Governor-General sent a reply to the Consul and instructed the Magistrate to release the son of Lin Shih-wei - named Lin Chung-ying and to cancel the case and they respectfully request the Yamên to make a note of the matter.

Having received the above report the Prince and Minister send this communication for the information of the United States Minister so that the case may be cancelled from the Legation records.

A necessary communication etc. etc. etc.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
APR 8 1892

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1892

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 7 1892
RECEIVED.

No 1477.

Legation of the United States.

Peking February 16th 1892.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject

The claim of Messrs. Russell & Co. vs. Chen Shou-li has been settled.

Synopsis

Encloses communication to that effect.

One enclosure.

No. 1477.

Legation of the United States
Peking February 16th 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 1366, of the 7th August 1891, I reported to you on information derived from Mr. Bedloe, Consul at Amoy, that the case of Messrs. Russell & Co. against their former compradore, Chen Shou-li, had been settled.

I now have the honor to enclose a translation of a

1/1477

a communication received from the Foreign Office, wherein it is stated that the sum of $15.000 has been paid in settlement of the amount agreed on by the parties.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

1. The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby

No 2 Feb. 13th 1892.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1477.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. 2. Feb. 13th 1892.

Your Excellency:

In the matter of Russell & Co's claim against Chen Shou-li, a report has been received from the Governor of Formosa as follows:

"The acting Taotai of Taiwan represents that, on the 29th of Oct. 1891, he received a communication from Mr. Consul Bedloe of Amoy to effect that he had been placed in receipt of a communication from Mr. Warren, British Consul at Taiwan and acting for the United States, stating that he had, on the 14th of Oct. 1891, received the Taotai's communication enclosing a bank order for the sum of fifteen thousand dollars at exchange 73, being the amount both parties had agreed upon in settlement of Chen Shou-li's indebtedness to Russell & Co. and to cancel the case.

A copy of this communication is sent as well as the bank order to the United States Consul to be handed to Russell & Co. The Consul will address the United States Minister at Peking, requesting that the case be cancelled from the Legation records and sends this communication in reply for the Taotai's information.

The Taotai begs that the Governor will address the Tsungli Yamên requesting that a communication be sent to the United States Minister to cancel the case."

The Governor, therefore, makes the request as stated and, as in duty bound, the Prince and Minister address this communication to the Minister of the United States for his information and that the case be cancelled.

A necessary communication etc., etc.

Ack by [illegible]

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1892

No. 1448
Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 20. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 7 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby.

to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acknowledges Despatches.

No. 1478

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 20. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:-

No. 681 of Decr. 14. 1891.
" 682 " " "
" 683 " " 15. "
" 684 " " 16. "
" 685 " " 15 "

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

P

Ack with thanks

Seen by Mr. Foster.

acd
2 [illegible]

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 28 1892

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 18 1892
RECEIVED.

No. 1479.

Legation of the United States.
Peking February 21st 1892.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Destruction of seals on the Asiatic coast etc.

Synopsis

Encloses report of Dr. Macgowan and newspaper clipping, giving his views on destruction of seals, the Siberian Railway, mines on the Amur, colonization on the Amur etc.

Two enclosures.

No. 1479.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 21st 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication lately addressed to me by 1/479 Dr. D. J. Macgowan; also a cutting from the North-China 2/479 News, of the 29th ult., from the pen of the same gentleman.

Dr. Macgowan has, I believe, lived in China longer than any other American. He is in the employment of the Imperial Maritime Customs as physician, but devotes a great deal of time to scientific as well as professional questions.

He started last fall on a trip to Siberia with the principal object of investigating the causes of influenza. In the communication to me he confines himself to the question of the destruction of seals on the Asiatic coast. As this subject is now before the Department, affecting the American coast, I thought his report would prove interesting to you.

He suggests, as you will

notice, that the only way to prevent the total destruction of the seals is to procure an international agreement that they shall not be killed at the rookeries.

The newspaper cutting gives an account of the construction of the new Russian railway, colonization in Siberia and gold mining on the Amur, and he concludes with some remarks on the destruction of seals.

Dr Macgowan is a man of high character and his statements may be relied on as true.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosures:
1. Dr Macgowan to Mr. Denby.
2. Clipping as above.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1479

Mis. No. 7/1892.

D. J. Macgowan to Mr. Denby

Seoul, Korea Jan 12th 1892.

H. E. Charles Denby
United States Minister,
Peking.

Dear Sir:

It is a duty incumbent on me to apprise you of my return from East Siberia, and of my arrival at this capital, *en route* to Shanghai, as I am largely indebted to your good offices for the success that has attended my journeys on its littoral and fluviatile waters.

Through some inexplicable contretemps I found myself without that traveller's staff of life on Russian soil — a passport, but your unofficial letter of commendation to Siberian authorities, and a like missive from Professor Sangler of the

Smithsonian Institution, introducing me to Siberian scholars and scientists, were accepted by the urbane Governor of Primorsk Province, General Unterberger as substitutes for a passport, and thus chiefs of police viséd those epistolary documents giving me the freedom of all Amuria, producing a talismanic effect and procuring that hospitality which is characteristic of Russians, and which, towards Americans, becomes charmingly effusive.

I should have nothing farther to communicate worthy your attention, but for an incident that occurred in Vladivostock, last November, when I witnessed the arrival of an American confiscated schooner, the "J. H. Lewis", with her crew as prisoners, in charge of Captain Labadeff, Russian Imperial Navy, which was captured by the gunboat "Aleut" for marauding on Russian seal islands.

While in La Pérouse Straits, within a day's sail of Robben Island – adjacent to Cape Patience, Sagalin Island – I became acquainted with outrages perpetrated by freebooters of various nationalities, American for the most part, on that island and Behring and Copper Islands, in illegal seal hunting and in the indiscriminate slaughter of seal regardless of sex or ages, and under circumstances which will prevent the resort of seals to rookeries of the first named island, and to their utter destruction at other islands.

With regard to unlawful proceedings on Behring and Copper Islands I am not so well informed, but the field of operations in that region being more extensive, wanton destruction of seal life has unquestionably been on a greater scale.

Last year's capture on Robben Island was 50% less than in 1890, because in that year carcases of skinned animals were left exposed on the beach, and over these cadavers animals, in the ensuing year, were obliged to climb — a spectacle which drove half their number back to ocean depths, and, as the same alarming sight will meet the gaze of new-comers this season, a like diminution of numbers is inevitable.

As now conducted, seal hunting on Russian territory by unscrupulous foreign adventurers cannot long endure, for the supply must soon cease. Present gain is the sole object of these miscreants who can well afford losses which Russian cruisers occasionally entail, so enormous are the profits of a successful voyage, and as for the agents whom they employ, so lenient are the Russian authorities toward them when captured that they are encouraged to a repetition of offences. At Vladivostock officers and men who were captured in poaching enjoyed perfect freedom, and were as well fed and as comfortably lodged as Russian soldiers, and were forwarded by steamer to the nearest American Consulate, Nagasaki.

To me it seems that even rigorous measures will not suffice for due preservation of those valuable fur-bearing animals. Nothing short of an international agreement interdicting

captures

[raiding]

captures at rookeries — restricting seal hunting ~~to~~ in the sea — will meet existing emergencies.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Yours most respectfully,
(Sig'd) D. J. Macgowan

Enclosure Nº 2 in Nº 1479

Clipping from the North China Daily News.
Jan. 29th 1892.

EAST SIBERIA.

Dr. Macgowan returned to Shanghai on Wednesday after a long tour in Siberia, which included the Amur river to Stretensk, the Zeyeto, the Yablonoi mountains, the Ussuri river to Lake Hinka, Saghalien, La Perouse Straits, and the Siberian and Manchurian gold mines.

"The first object to attract travellers' attention on arriving at Vladivostock," says Dr. Macgowan, "is the initial mark of that gigantic undertaking, the Trans-Baikal Railway, the prosecution of which has been only partially arrested by Siberian snows. It is remarkable that coincident with the famine in European Russia the Ussuri valley, only a fraction of which has been brought under cultivation, has produced this season a prodigious cereal crop, insomuch that the provincial authorities have been obliged to come to the relief of agriculturists by purchasing a year's supply of rye for the army. What an incentive for expediting the work! Strategic considerations were mainly urged for the speedy completion of the railway. Now a new inducement crops up, that of striving to avert the recurrence of an abnormal abundance in one portion of the empire and a wasting famine in another. It is a problem that urgently calls for solution, how the work can be most rapidly prosecuted. Convict labour, on which much reliance is placed, is dilatory and expensive, and free labour is not available to meet the demand. For reasons that at the time seemed cogent and satisfactory, it was decreed that only the Russian proletariat should be employed on the construction of the railway, but now it is obvious that without the aid of an army of Chinese the consummation must be delayed to a period that must prove detrimental to the interests of all the Russias. In view of this it will not be a matter of surprise if a tender lately submitted to the Imperial Government by a Vancouver syndicate, for transporting from Canton several thousand labourers, who had completed the Canadian Pacific Railway, to East Siberia, should receive careful consideration. Agents of the syndicate have made an examination of that portion of the route which lies between Vladivostock and Kabarofka, on which they based their estimates. It is presumable that they would undertake to convey the Chinese labourers back to Canton on completion of the work. Doubtless the matter is receiving at Petersburg the attention it merits.

"After railway undertakings the subject of colonisation occupies chief attention in Siberian administration. Until recently the results of colonising schemes were far from satisfactory. Immigrants originally were composed to a large extent of loafers and tramps; thriftless and lazy, they became a public burden, hardly ceasing from claiming State assistance. Now, however, immigrants are required to deposit several hundred roubles before embarking, which sum on their arrival (by sea from Odessa) is repaid, enabling them, with what the Government supplements, to take their new departure in life under favourable conditions. The fact that they had earned and saved money in Russia is a guarantee that their good habits will be retained in Siberia. On arrival at Vladivostock they appoint delegates from their own number, who, after a tour of exploration, conduct their party to the spot selected.

"Mining, however, is likely to divert many from agricultural pursuits for a long period and to attract a large share of capital. I found the Zeye gold mines in a condition of phenomenal prosperity, owing to the employment of hydraulic machinery. The Amur Gold Mining Company's works on the Zeye alone employed last summer sixteen hundred hands for one hundred and thirty days, and obtained about six thousand pounds (English) of the coveted metal, while on the northern slope of the Yablonoi mountains the yield for 1891 is computed at twice that amount. The total amount of Siberian gold for that year must be not less than sixty-six thousand pounds. In short, unless the reports are greatly exaggerated, this country will produce more gold than California and Australia have yet furnished to meet the world's demand. On the Manchurian side of the Amur, notwithstanding the clumsy and wasteful mode of washing the auriferous earth, the mines are fairly productive. As no proper survey has been made of that region, no computation can be made respecting its capacity for adding to the world's supply.

"When at the Manchurian city of Hochur, near the Russian frontier, I found machinery on its way to work silver ore recently discovered on a mountain range conterminous with Corea.

"Among many subjects that attracted my attention, there is one which I cannot allow myself to pass over—the wanton destruction of seals by foreign depredators on Russian territory—Robben Island and Behring Island. When in La Perouse Straits I was so near to the former island that the matter almost came under my personal observation, and I was at Vladivostock when a schooner confiscated for the offence arrived. I shall have more to say on this subject at another time, merely remarking that Russian leniency towards the miscreants whom they capture is so far from being deterrent as to be an encouragement to filibustering."

No 1480.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Treasury.
Ack as interesting.
APR 20 1892
AAA

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 20 1892

Legation of the United States.

Peking February 25th 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 18 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

The use of silver in the East

Synopsis

An attempt to explain the preference given to silver as a circulating medium

No 1480.

Legation of the United States
Peking, February 25th 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Letters reach me now and then asking information on questions affecting the use of silver in the East.

My despatches to the Department have, from time to time, treated this subject, but new phases are occasionally involved and it has occurred to me that it might not be entirely useless to forward some further observations thereon.

I endeavor to state facts only and leave deductions to be made by others.

It is incorrect to speak of silver as "coined money" in China. It is true that there has lately been established at Canton a mint, where Chinese coins are minted corresponding in value to the Mexican dollar and fractions thereof, but this currency has not yet worked it's way into general circulation and it's future is uncertain.

Silver is used in China as a medium of circulation by weight. The Mexican dollar passes freely at the open ports and in their immediate vicinity, but when the dollars reach the interior they are melted into lumps and become a definite weight of silver bullion. For small amounts these lumps are chipped to suit the demands of trade.

The discovery of America practically opened up China to silver. Since that event the ratio between gold and silver has largely increased, owing to the shipments of silver to China.

It has pertinently been asked why silver is almost exclusively used in the East instead of gold. It is to be remembered that China, in the 11th and 12th centuries, issued vast amounts of paper money. Paper money was invented by the Chinese to facilitate the interchange of commodities. Their original medium of exchange was copper. Gold was always too precious to be used except for ornaments and for hoarding. Populous countries, where the people are very poor, need a kind of money of less intrinsic value than gold. Paper money soon deteriorated in value, then silver from Mexico was hailed with delight because it keeps it's value. Silver is rare in Asia. The chief supply comes from America.

The cause of this dependance on silver, and of the constant demand for it, is found in the facts that land is fertile in China and India and is tilled by hundreds of millions of laborers. A circulating medium is needed to correspond with the immense products of the soil and with the poverty of the people. It would be impossible to subdivide gold so as to meet the demands for the use of money. The general circulating medium is copper. In many parts of China it takes 1200, or even more, "cash", to equal one Mexican dollar. For the middle classes silver is sufficient. Even the rich keep their accounts in silver.

As the population of China and India is increasing the demand for silver must correspondingly increase.

Silver sent to India is absorbed and never returns to the countries from which it came. An explanation of this constant absorption of silver may be found in the fact that the importation of silver has never reached the point of saturation, that is to say a point where coined money represents grain and industrial products sufficiently to put an end to barter. As long as immense numbers of families do their marketing by barter without employing more than a small quantity of silver, or none at all, silver will continue to be absorbed in India and China.

We can remember, in the west of the United States, when silver dollars were cut into four, and even more, pieces to represent fractions thereof. In those days the settlers in the west made nearly every article of domestic use for themselves. A gold currency could not have been of general use in such communities.

I am informed by a banker that "the balance of trade is in favor of India. India sends produce in exchange for money. Council bills are used in sending about £16.000.000 to London each year. That is to say exchange bankers and Indian merchants buy bills from the India Council in London drawn on the Presidency Treasuries at Bombay and Calcutta".

By these bills government business is facilitated. They are a form of money and they represent produce and industrial commodities.

Paper is not wanted in either India or China. In China the government issues no paper money, though private banks do to a limited extent.

Silver is preferred to gold by people of small incomes. The incomes of people in China and India are many times smaller than the incomes of people living in countries where gold is the currency.

Gold and silver, even when they are currency, never cease to be commodities. Some persons possess diamonds but most persons do not. The same thing is true to a less extent with gold. The quantity of gold possessed depends on income. In India and China incomes are rated in silver in accommodation to the habits of those countries. What determines the medium used as money is the amount of the ordinary incomes of the people of the country.

In China accounts in native shops are kept in copper as a general thing. Rich native firms keep their accounts in silver.

The absorption of silver in the East may also be partially accounted for by the wellknown fact that immense quantities of it are used for ornaments. In every large city there are gold-smiths and silver-smiths. Head ornaments, bracelets, ear-rings, thumb-rings, are in almost universal use, and curios and toilet and table articles made of silver are very common.

In commercial transactions of some magnitude gold is used in the form of flat bars. In Western China newly gathered gold is circulated in the form of leaf. It is wrapped in paper on which is written it's exact weight with the name of a gold firm as guarantee. Gold is also used extensively for ornamental purposes.

It would seem not to be in the range of human possibility that gold can ever drive out silver in the East as a circulating medium.

I have endeavored to show that the causes which induce Eastern people to prefer silver as a medium are inherent in their condition and are dependent on their poverty, their great populations as well as the supply of the white metal. It is not likely that in these respects any change will ever occur in India or China.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Copy to Navy Dept in connection with the Hawaiian Surveys.
APR 20 1892

√ 22 ap
22 ap

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 20 1892

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 18 1892
RECEIVED

No 1481.

So ack.

aaa

Legation of the United States.

Peking February 26th 1892.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject
The Trans-Pacific Cable

Synopsis
Mr. Denby encloses a copy of a paper written by Mr. C. Poulsen showing the feasibility etc., of such a cable

One enclosure.

No. 1481.

Legation of the United States.
Peking February 26th 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to 1/481 enclose, herewith, a copy of a paper on the Trans-Pacific Cable, prepared by Mr. C. Poulsen, who is one of the directors of the Chinese telegraphs.

The statements therein made will not be new to the Department but the condensed form of the argument and discussion of the feasibility and desirability of laying a cable across the Pacific gives value to this paper.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

A paper as above.

Enclosure

The Trans-Pacific Cable

The history of telegraphic progress shows, like any other history, how things small from the beginning grow into mighty quantities. It is only about 40 years ago that the first submarine two miles long cable was laid, and at the present day mighty telegraph cables are crossing the various seas. Already in 1865 the Atlantic cable — 1852 knots long — was laid, and in 1870 the different sections of the British Indian and British Indian Extension cables: Falmouth-Lisbon, Lisbon Gibraltar, Gibraltar-Malta, Malta-Port Said, Port Said-Suez, Suez-Aden, Aden-Bombay, Bombay-Madras, Madras-Penang, Penang-Singapore and the China Telegraph were constructed. On account of these gigantic strides we are now able to telegraph from China and Japan to Europe "via Suez" and "via Valentia" in Ireland, or Brest in France, to America. An enormous cable distance has to be traversed before the telegraphic despatch from China or Japan reaches the shores of America say ca. 12000 knots = ca. 14000 statute miles plus 600 statute miles across India from Madras to Bombay.

A look at the map suggests to us that the far East and West could be linked together by far shorter routes, the direct distance from San Francisco to Yokohama being only 4500 n. m. A second more indirect route would be from San Francisco to Honolulu 2086. n. m. and from Honolulu to Yokohama 3393 n. m. or 5479 n. m.

A third route would be from Vancouver to Yokohama 4300 n. m.

n.m.

A fourth from Vancouver to Honolulu 2313 n.m.
From Honolulu to Yokohama 3393 " "
5706 " "

As to the depth of the Pacific Ocean, the greatest depth marked in the chart is 3100 fathoms and the least 345 fathoms, the general average depth being about 2500 fathoms.

Between Vancouver and Honolulu there are no soundings marked on the chart. The average depth of the Atlantic Ocean is about the same, the greatest depth being 3.000 fathoms. The Atlantic cable, therefore, serves as a precedent for the practicability of laying a Pacific cable.

It is always advisable, if possible, to submerge cables in depths beyond the reach of anchors and free from the influence of currents, tidal or otherwise, which might cause friction if the bottom is hard and rocky. Depth of 70 fathoms will protect the cable against any such influences as the heaviest motion of the sea only takes place at the surface and never reaches further down than a few hundred feet, as already stated. The celebrated American Maury says "when the cable even of the lightest type lies at the bottom of the sea, then it will remain intact by several hundred years". Practical experiments have proved that a light cable can stand a pressure of more than 550 atmospheres which is more than the pressure of the deepest oceans; and the gutta percha rather gains than loses by it. An ordinary iron-sheathed cable weighing 35 cwt. per nautical mile cannot be picked up safely from a greater depth than 300 fathoms even with a large percentage of slack whilst a steel sheathed cable of similar construction has been successfully raised from 2000 fathoms. It is advisable to have cables varying in weight according to the depth as they increase leaving the shore, under 20 fathoms 10-20 tons per n.m., over 100 " 1-2 " " " ".

The Atlantic cable weighs 1.75 tons per n.m.

The French Atlantic 1.625 tons per n.m. The Hongkong-Shanghai deep sea cable 1.5 tons per n.m. &c.

So of the length of the cable laid 5-10 per cent for slack should be added; the slack of the Atlantic cable is 9 per cent. It is desirable indeed to have as little slack as possible, but to provide for the lifting of the cables at repairs it is necessary to allow sufficient slack during the paying out. The telegraphic instruments used on very long cables are the mirror and the Syphon Recorder of Sir Wm Thompson. The speed on the Atlantic cable reaches 27 words *per* minute. Mr. Willoughby Smith's mirror apparatus is now in use on the cables laid between England, America and India. The battery is composed of 4-10 cells of the Minatto type.

The above statements have been given in order to illustrate what we will term the practicability of laying a Pacific cable. Our engineering observations finish here and we shall proceed to consider the commercial chances of a trans-Pacific cable. The international correspondence of China and Japan is at present carried on by the Great Northern and Eastern Extension Telegraph Companies. Any telegram leaving the mercantile centres of China and Japan to go to Europe and America must, at present, pass these two cable lines. A telegram from Shanghai, for instance, can either go by cable via Nagasaki to Vladivostock and from there by Russian land lines to Europe, or it can pass by cable nearly all the way via Hongkong-Singapore-Penang-Madras-Bombay-Aden-Suez-Port Said-Malta-Gibraltar-Lisbon-Falmouth. China has no international connections and the possibilities of her landlines have hitherto been withstood by the monopolizing cables, which charge an average rate of $2.00 per word to Europe. For telegrams to America the charge across the Atlantic cable and the American landlines will have to be added, the rate from Shanghai to New York being something like $2.35 and to

San Francisco $2.55 per word. The mercantile community of China and Japan are suffering under these high charges, and have recently ventilated their sentiments as to the continuation of same by loud protests against the so-called Chefoo Convention, by which the Great Northern and Eastern Extension Telegraph Companies sought to secure the $\$2^{00}$ rate to Europe for a period of sixteen years. There can be no question that the laying of a cable to compete with those through which all our messages now pass would be heartily welcomed by foreigners in China and Japan, and that a competitor would not have to struggle, as is often the case, against any deep-seated affection on the part of their present customers for the existing companies.

The total business between China on the one hand and Europe and America on the other amounts now to about 1.200-000 words a year, and if we include the Japanese traffic we come up to 1.600-000 words per annum. As a matter of course a Pacific cable would take all the American traffic from China and Japan, the route being so much shorter and the retransmissions so much less numerous. There are at present at least ten retransmissions between China and the west on the existing lines and many of those mean mistakes and loss of time. The mails from Japan to America and Western Europe go almost entirely now by the Pacific route and much of the Japan telegraphic traffic would follow the example, while the advantages the route would offer viz. directness, accuracy, and cheapness would draw much of the traffic between China and

Western Europe the same way.
The present cable routes are overburdened with the correspondence of intermediate stations viz. the Straits and India, under which the European and American traffic must suffer to some extent, and the routes are so much longer. In one sense the Trans-Pacific cable would have a greater capacity for quick and correct transmission than the present cable routes. The transmission from Yokohama to San Francisco would land the message in America and 2 or 3 more retransmissions would carry it to Europe.

The cable from San Francisco to Yokohama would cost about $1000 per n. m. laid down, but in order to secure the free movements of the Pacific cable and prevent arbitrary tariff manoeuvres on the part of the

Chinese and the existing companies, it would be necessary to have independent cables from Nagasaki to Shanghai = 500 n.m. and also to Foochow, Amoy, Hongkong = 930 n.m., so that the total length of cable in this way would be,

San Francisco to Honolulu	2086 n.m.
Honolulu " Yokohama	3393 " "
Nagasaki " Shanghai	500 " "
Foochow, Amoy, Hongkong	930 " "
	6909 " "
Plus 10% slack	7599.9. n.m

and the cost of the same would be - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 7.599.900
plus cost of three repairing steamers 450.00
8.049.900

The three repairing steamers would be for -
1/ Section San Francisco to Honolulu,
2/ " Honolulu to Yokohama,
3/ " China Coast.

If the Pacific cable transmitted half only of the 1.600.000 words, which at present represent the traffic between China and Japan to Europe and America, out of which the Trans-Pacific cable would have to pay say 50 cents per word to the overland lines of Japan, America and Europe and trans-Atlantic cable – 10 cents to Japan – 10 cents to America – 20 cents to trans-Atlantic cables and 10 cents for further transmission in Europe – the gross proceeds would be 800.000 words @ $2 per word

= - - - - - - - - - - - 1.600.000

minus 800.000 × 50 400.000

Gross proceeds $1.200.000

The operating expenses would be for San Francisco, Honolulu, Yokohama, Nagasaki, Shanghai, Foochow, Amoy, Hongkong stations @ $10.000 per annum say $80.000

Superintendence, material and travelling expenses say 50.000

and cost of repairing ships for 3 sections @ $50.000 per annum 150.000

$280.000

leaving \$1.200-000 - \$280-000 = \$920.000
Net proceeds - - - - - - - - - - - - \$920-000
or nearly 11.5%.

If the \$2^{00} rate was lowered to \$1^{50}, the yearly revenue would be \$1-200-000
minus \$400-000 = 800-000
operating expenses 280-000
Net proceeds \$520-000
or nearly 6.5%.

At \$1.25 the revenue would be \$1-000.000
Minus \$400.000 600-000
Operating expenses 280.000
Net proceeds \$320.000
or nearly 4%.

The \$1.25 rate would be an enormous reduction of the existing rates from China to Europe and America viz. \$2- and \$2.55. The rate from Japan to America would fall from \$2^{00} and \$2.55 to say \$1-00 and \$0.75- Of course the uniform rate of \$1-50 or \$1.25 could, in harmony with my calculations, given above, be maintained for all correspondence between the far East and West. The cable companies would only have a poor chance. Great Northern have to pay francs 3.50 for further transmission through Russia and Eastern Extension only reach as far as India, from where they have to pay for further transmission to India and the cable companies beyond India to Falmouth. The United States would come to form an 1/ integral part of the Telegraph System of the World connecting the East and the West by the Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic lines. 2/ The low rates between China and Japan and America would be a mighty lever of the China-Japan and United States trade. 3/ The United States would be able to manoeuvre the Pacific fleet, whether warships or tradesmen, with safety and precision - A patriotic spirit should move the citizens of the Great Republic to form a combination in order to reduce the existing American land-lines and trans-Atlantic rates in order to make the World traffic pass via the lines and cables of the United States. The increase in traffic would more than compensate for the decrease in charge. Also Japan would greatly benefit by the construction of the Pacific cable. She would likewise as America be 1/ the highroad for telegrams passing between the far East and the West. 2/ Her telegraphic revenue would increase and the cheapness of messages exchanged between herself and the United States would lift her commerce and, 3/ as it were link her more closely to the powerful but peaceful Republic of the West.

That the electric girdle around the earth will be completed ere long seems certain and the completion of it will be made appropriately by the country which has produced so many famous electricians. The benefit of the Pacific cable is obvious and, in the event of a European war, it would be a very great advantage that there should be an alternative line to the far East in the control of powers that would almost certainly be neutral.

The United States owe their best thanks to their intelligent and worthy Ambassador to the East, Col. Denby, who, at the time of the discussion of the Chefoo Convention, pointed out distinctly and clearly to the Chinese Government that no monopolizing convention which they might sign could prejudice the United States' or any other government's citizens from landing a cable on the China coast when the moment arrives, and that any combination between the Chinese Administration and the cable companies to attempt to defeat this object, or to combine, so as to render it impossible for other parties to take advantage of the Chinese lines, would be considered an infringement of the treaties.

(S'g'd) C. Poulsen.

by No of file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 19 1892

No. 1482
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 3. 1892.

TMENT OF STATE,
PR 18 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acknowledges Despatches.

No. 1482.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 3. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:—

No. 686 of December 24. 1891
" 687 " " 30. "
" 688 " " " "
" 689 " January 4 1892.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
APR 20 1892

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 20 1892

And 22 ap

No 1483.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 18 1892
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 5th, 1892.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The "Sheng Yü" or "Sacred Edict"

Synopsis

The Evangelical Alliance asks that a portion of the Edict which attacks the Christian Religion be omitted therefrom. Mr. Denby agrees with the Alliance.

One enclosure.

No. 1483.

Legation of the United States.
Peking March 5th 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of a paper which was addressed to the diplomatic body by a committee of the Evangelical Alliance of Shanghai.

1/1483

The purport of this communication is a request that the diplomatic body shall ask the imperial government to strike out from a book, called in Chinese "Sheng Yü", and in English the "Sacred Edict", a sentence or two which reflect on the Christian religion.

A description of this book is as follows.

Sixteen maxims for the moral government of the Chinese were prepared by the Emperor Kang Hsi, who reigned in China from 1662 to 1723. These maxims contained, in the original, each seven characters or words, which were neatly written on small slips of wood, which were placed in the public offices, where they may still be seen.

Kang Hsi said nothing about the Christian religion.

In about 1725, the Emperor Yung Cheng, who was the son and successor of Kang Hsi, wrote an amplification of these maxims, which he published and ordered to be read publicly to the people on the first and fifteenth day of each month. This publication is the book under notice.

It is mentioned by Williams at pages 548, 686, 691, of Vol. I, of the "Middle Kingdom", and at pages 33, 107, 111, 227 and 267 of Vol II.

The sixteen apothegms above mentioned are set out at page 687

687, Vol I.

The book is composed of short treatises on "Duties of Children", "Respect for Kindred", "Concord among Neighbors", and other moral subjects, and on some governmental questions such as the "Payment of Taxes", the "Extirpation of Robbery" etc.

The maxim that we have now to deal with is the seventh, and reads thus: "Degrade strange religions in order to exalt the orthodox doctrine".

After warning the people against the adoption of certain forms of native religions, these sentences are found; "Even the "sect of Tien Chu (the Lord or

'Master of Heaven — a term
"adopted by the Catholic
"missionaries to express the
"'Supreme Being'") who talk
"about heaven and chat about
"earth and of things without
"shadow and without substance;
"this religion is also unsound
"and corrupt. But because
"[the European teachers of
"this sect] understand astronomy
"and are skilled in mathematics,
"therefore the government employs
"them to correct the calendar.
"That, however, by no means
"implies that their religion
"is a good one. You should
"not on any account believe
"them."

He

The argument of the Evangelical Alliance is that the position of the government has changed on the subject of toleration, and that it is no longer proper for the government, officially, to attack the Christian religion and to class it among creeds dangerous to the Empire. To show this change the edict of June 13th last is cited. (See my despatch No 1324 of June 19th 1891). The petitioners, therefore, pray that the words above set out be stricken from the "Sacred Edict".

This question has not yet been passed on by the foreign representatives.

Much may be said on both sides of the question but, it seems to me, in as much as the "Sacred Edict" is an official utterance, repeated twice a month in public places all over China, and as it is undoubtedly in conflict with later decrees issued by the Crown, that there will be no impropriety in requesting the imperial government to omit the objectionable phrases in further readings and editions.

It is very doubtful whether this request will be granted, but there is some precedent for making it to be found in Art. IV of the Treaty of 1880 with China. (See Treaties 1776–1887 p. 183).

The Evangelical Alliance suggests, also, that the words of the edict of June be inserted in lieu of the extirpated phrases in the "Sacred Edict" and that the interpolation be read by authority in every city.

In my opinion this would be asking too much. China cannot be expected to make proselytes to Christianity and it is no part of the duty of a diplomatist to ask her to do so.

Your approval of my suggested action is respectfully requested.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

1. The Shanghai Evangelical Alliance per Dr Edkins, Prest, and others to the diplomatic body Jan. 22nd 1892.

Enclosure 1 in 76

Shanghai, Jan 22nd 1892.

Sir:

In the name of the Evangelical Alliance of Shanghai and of the Committee of Correspondence appointed by the Missionary Conference of 1890, we beg to address you in reference to the riots of last spring and summer, and through you to request the foreign ministers resident in Peking to take into consideration a proposal in regard to the Sacred Edict.

Dr John, of Hankow, in a letter which appeared in the North China Daily News of Jan 5th 1892, mentioned the fact that anti-Christian writers in Hunan find a very convenient and powerful weapon in the Sacred Edict. The authors of those anonymous treatises which have excited the inhabitants of that province to conceive the most unreasonable hatred to the foreigner and have produced such disastrous effects in Anhwei, Kiangsu, Kiangsi and Hupei, claim to be conducting a sort of righteous crusade against foreigners, based on the principles and practice of the Ta Ching Dynasty. They imagine, or profess to imagine, that in maltreating Christians and destroying their property they are only obeying the law as laid down in the Sacred Edict.

Consequently Dr. John suggests that the time has come when the Chinese Government may be asked to modify that document.

Agreeing with the opinion that the time has come for some action we venture to ask whether in your opinion and that of your Colleagues it might not be well to request the Tsungli Yamên to consider how such results from the reading of the Sacred Edict may in future be avoided.

The Emperor Sheng-tsu wrote and made public sixteen sentences exhorting the soldiers and people to practise virtue and industry. The Emperor Shih-tsung (Yung Chêng) in the second year of his reign, 1724, promulgated sixteen imperial homilies based on his imperial father's sixteen sentences and inculcating the practise of social virtues. They were ordered to be read on the new and full moons to the soldiers and people in temples convenient for the purpose. As Christianity preaches morality publicly, Confucianism resolved to try the same method. The imperial homilies were afterwards paraphrased in the mandarin tongue by Wang-yu and others. The Emperor Shih-tsung and the paraphrase alike condemn Christianity as a religion not orthodox and not approved." The text and paraphrase are widely circulated among graduates at examinations to encourage patriotism and uniformity of opinion. It is the paraphrase which is read publicly. There is more than one published but the one mentioned is the more common. The past shows that a discretionary power of colloquial rendering is lodged with the reader.

Some Governors of provinces had commenced the persecution of Christians shortly before the publication of the homilies and the government had resolved to favor persecution. (The Emperor Kang Hsi died in 1722. In 1723 the Viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang memorialized the Emperor urging that the European missionaries should be ordered to Macao and churches of the Christian faith changed to public offices. Half a year's grace was allowed to missionaries to complete their arrangements. The Emperor approved. See Blue Book Supplement III pages 4-5.)

This fact explains the circumstance that Christianity is condemned in the homilies and is placed immediately in connection with prohibited secret societies in rebellion against the state. But, at present, the government has become tolerant and friendly towards the Christian religion as the edict of June last (Kuanghsü 17th year, 5th Month, 7th day) shows. The times have greatly changed since 1724 when Christianity was an illicit religion. From the point of view of a foreigner, the good order and harmony of the people among themselves would be promoted by the issue of an edition of the Sacred Edict adapted to the times. We respect that feeling of Chinese statesmen which leads them to shrink from altering the words of any document emanating from the Emperor. We limit ourselves to saying what an outside observer thinks is now desirable. It would be pleasing to us and those we represent to see the words of the edict of June made use of in the Sacred Edict in a new edition to be read by authority in every city. We are impressed by the benevolent tone of His Majesty's edict of June last. We fervently pray Almighty God to grant His Majesty a long and prosperous reign over a united and happy people and we believe that if words regarding Christianity in accord with actual legislation were read to the people in every city at the appointed times, the effect would be most beneficial.

Not only does His Majesty cherish and express benevolent sentiments; the Sage Confucius, in the Lun Yü, tells us that "the highest virtue consists in loving mankind". This feeling ought to be promoted in every way possible among the people so that Christians, and those who are not Christians, may everywhere live in peace together. All missionaries feel it to be their duty to teach their converts the practice of loyalty, uprightness, charity and filial piety. They also desire to see the realization of another saying of China's Sage, "All within the four seas are brethren" and they are convinced that it will be best attained by the peaceful spread of the Christian religion.

(Signed) Joseph Edkins D.D.

President Shanghai Evangelical Alliance

E. Faber Dr. Theol. German Missionary

Arch-deacon in Mid China &c.
Wm Muirhead, Hon. Secty of the
Corresponding Committee of the
General Missionary Conference

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR [illegible] 1892

No. 1484
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 5. 1892.

√21 ab

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 18 1892
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Ack. Enclosure not received - abk
APR 20 1892

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Abominable Publications in China.

Synopsis.

Encloses copy of "A Complete Picture Gallery," with comments thereon. (not received with the dispatch)

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No. 1484

Legation of the United States,
Peking. March 5. 1892

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I, herewith, enclose a copy of a compilation called "A Complete Picture Gallery".

This publication is designed to reproduce for circulation among Western peoples and powers exact copies of the vile and indecent pamphlets and pictures which are being distributed all over China, and are believed to have been powerful causes of the recent riots. If you examine this brochure you will see that it is full of the most abominable charges against foreigners.

They are charged with kidnappi children, bewitching grown people in order to obtain their eyes and brains, and with every conceivable immorality. These papers are circulated by the million with the tacit consent, if not open encouragement, of the local authorities. When the masses see that their officials and literary men believe or affect to believe, that these charges are true they are easily stirre to riot. It seems that we are face to face with a conspiracy to drive the foreigners out of China; and the plan of operations embraces the common use of libel and slander. In these pamphlets the populace is urgently advised to use all manner of personal violence to get rid of foreigners. No Western country would permit obscene publication directed against foreigners resident in its borders to be circulated. It is admitted that the prohibition of such pamphlets is difficult, but, while fair arguments against Christianity must be tolerated, direct appeals to murder and riot should be, as far as possible, prevented by the Chinese Government. I am satisfied that these publications have an immense influence on the masses; the greater, because, there is a widespread belief that the Government secretly favors this plan of checking foreign residence in China. On the side of the foreigners, their trade, their property, their lives, are all at stake. It cannot be wondered, therefore, that they are disposed to adopt almost any method which may conduce to self protection. Lately at Hankow, the British residents made a direct appeal to Lord Salisbury in this matter. They passed stringent resolutions and demanded the active intervention of the Home Government.

You will notice that the introduction and "Review" inserted in this brochure abound in attacks on the Foreign Representatives in China. It is scarcely necessa to say that these attacks are unwarranted. The Diplomatic Body here has always been engaged in efforts to secure the interdiction of inflammatory publications, as your records will abundantly show. I lately sent to the Yamen, by the hands of the Dean, a large number of vile publications in Chinese, and their character was thoroughly explained, and the prohibition of their circulation requested. Some feeble efforts have been made, by the Imperial Government, to destroy existing editions of these productions, but, in Hunan, which is the locality of their origin, it does not appear that any serious effort has been made to check their printing and distribution.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure (not received with the despatch)
Copy of "A Complete Picture Gallery."

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Give to press.
Ack by subject -
APR 20 1892
a a

21 ap
21 ap

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 20 1892

No. 1485
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 5. 1892.

RTMENT OF STATE,
APR 18 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Wuhu Riots.

Synopsis.

The Foreign Office reports that the leaders thereof have been beheaded.

No. 1485

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 5. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of a communication from the Foreign Office on the subject of the action taken by the Government relative to the riot at Wuhu last year. The Yamên sets out that two of the rioters were arrested and decapitated on the spot. Others were punished by imprisonment and the cangue. Later, another leader, Kao Ju Ching, was arrested and beheaded. Thus, the leading criminals have been punished as a warning to others in the future.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One Enclosure
Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. 3 Peking March 3. 1892.

Upon the 24th February, the Prince and Ministers received from the Minister Supt. of Southern Trade a communication stating that in the matter of the burning and destruction of missionary property at Wuhu by outlaws last year, Chuan Yon Shun and Wang Kuang Chin, rioters were decapitated on the spot, and their heads exposed as a warning to others. Other participants in the riots were also punished, some by imprisonment and others cangued — according to the nature of the offense committed. At the same time, instructions were issued to cause the apprehension of Kao Yu Ching, one of the chief rioters, and other miscreants,

and

have been punished as a warning to others in the future.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One enclosure
Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

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The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. 3 Peking March 3. 1892.

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Later the expectant Taotai, Yuan, in charge of the Tithing Office at Wuhu, reported that in December of last year, Chen Hsi-tung, an outlaw was arrested and, on being examined the whereabouts of Kao Yu Ching were ascertained. A worthy officer with soldiers was dispatched to effect his arrest. A petition was therefore presented to the Minister Supt. of Southern Trade asking for instructions as to what action should be taken with this criminal. Instructions were accordingly issued and the Wuhu Taotai made his report to effect that he had examined the said criminal and it appeared that he was a conspicuous leader of the seditious society and that he had been engaged in the missionary disturbances, beating gongs and causing destruction of property by fire. His criminal acts were of such a nature that leniency should not in any way be shewn. A copy of the evidence was transmitted to the Minister Supt. of Southern Trade asking for instructions in the premises. He, finding that the criminal was a conspicuous leader and that he had taken the lead in the burning of missionary property, considered that it would not be convenient to postpone for any length of time his punishment, and therefore ordered that he be at once beheaded and that his head be exposed as a warning to the populace. The Yamên would observe that the first missionary outrage occurred at Wuhu. The leading Criminals have been apprehended and punished. The heads of the evil doers have been taken off as examples to others. Now besides having addressed H. E. M. Lemaire, the French Minister, on the subject, as in duty bound the Prince and Ministers, in like manner, send this communication for the information of the minister of the U. S.

Mr. Kirchhoffer.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 19 1892

No. 1486.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 8th, 1892.

ARTMENT OF STATE
18 1892
CEIVED.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —
Enclosing copy of despatch
No. 1395, with enclosure.

No. 1486. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 8th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

In your despatch No 684, of December 15th, 1891, you inform me that my despatch No 1395, has not been received at the Department. In compliance with your instructions I have the honor to enclose a copy of same with enclosure. 486.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your Obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Copy of despatch as above.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU,
APR 19 1892

Sep.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 9. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 18 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Martin

to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Salary and Exchange
Loss account.

Dup.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 9. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose you, herewith, my account for Salary and Exchange Loss for quarter ending March 31. 1892. For the Exchange Loss, say \$11.67 gold, I have made the usual draft on you.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Howard Martin

eby no file

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 5 1892
RECEIVED

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 5 1892

No. 1487.
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 12. 1892

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Acknowledges Despatches.

No. 1487

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 12. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as below:—

No.	690	dated	Jany.	6.	1892
"	691	"	"	9.	"
"	692	"	"	11.	"
"	693	"	"	12.	"
"	694	"	"	14.	"

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Denby

No. 488

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 5 1892
RECEIVED

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 5 1892

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 14. 1892

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Dr. Wm. L. Abbott's Passport

Synopsis

Passport was sent Dr. Abbott on January 29, and in the accompanying letter the Minister tendered further services, should they be required.

No. 1488
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 14. 1892.

To The Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

In further acknowledgement of your despatch No. 694 of January 14. last, wherein I am directed to procure for Dr Wm L. Abbott a Chinese passport to enable him to visit Yarkand, I have the honor to state by request of Dr Abbott, I applied for the desired passport on the 19th of last January. The passport was received from the Foreign Office the 28th January and was on that day forwarded to Dr Abbott. In the letter which accompanied it, I tendered to Dr. Abbott my further services should they be required, and they will be most cheerfully furnished if needed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Denby

Mr Cridler
This nomination
has been approved
W. F. W.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 16 1892

No. 1489 May 13.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 14. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAY 5 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby ✓ and 17 May

to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Nomination of Rufus F. Eastlake, Esqre. as Deputy Consul General, by Consul General, Leonard.

Synopsis.

Minister approves. Forwards Consul General Leonard's despatch announcing resignation of Deputy Consul General Mark B. Dunnell.

No. 1489
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 14. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D. C.

Sir:

At the request of the Consul General, I have the honor to forward to you, with my approval,
9 his despatch No. 179 of the 1st instant, wherein he has nominated Rufus F. Eastlake Esqre., for the position of Deputy Consul General, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mark B. Dunnell, Esq.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

one enclosure – filed with Consular despatches

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 5 1892
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Ack. by Number and File. aah
MAY 6 1892

No 1490.

Legation of the United States.
Peking March 14th 1892.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 6 1892

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The Hunan Publications

Synopsis
Resolutions of a meeting at Shanghai enclosed with comments thereon.

One Enclosure.

No. 1490.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 14th 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

At the request of the Consular Body at Shanghai, I have the honor to enclose 1/1490 a report of the proceedings of a public meeting held at that city, the 25th ult., to consider "the Hunan publications".

The meeting endorsed the petitions which have been forwarded to the President and Lord Salisbury from Hankow and Kiukiang. I thoroughly agree that the influence of these publications is bad and that they ought to be suppressed.

Nothing has been left undone by the foreign representatives to secure that result, still it seems to be desirable that direct representations should be made by the home governments to the government of China on the subject.

I fear, however, that the causes of discontent among the Chinese are deeper than antagonism to the Christian religion. There can be no doubt that there is a wide-spread belief in China that international intercourse is injurious to her interests. The more intelligent among her people cite as grievances the importation of opium, the import of foreign manufactured goods, the introduction of steamers, the loss of Burma and Annam, extra-territoriality, the presence of missionaries, and many other things.

The decline in the tea and silk trade aggravates the prevailing unrest and bad feeling.

It is not worth while to enquire

whether the matters so complained of do produce the injury which is alleged. Opinions thereon would largely differ.

The chart that guides the foreign representative is the treaty. He has only to see that it's provisions are complied with. If those provisions work injury to China he cannot help it. She must find her own methods of relief. I think, however, that the chief and gigantic cause of all her troubles is the incapacity of the government.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure:
1. Clipping from "North China Herald" Feb. 26th 1892
the Hunan Publications.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1490.

THE HUNAN PUBLICATIONS.

A public meeting of residents in Shanghai was held yesterday afternoon at the Lyceum Theatre, at the invitation of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, to take such steps as might appear desirable in regard to the anti-foreign publications by the Chinese. The chair was taken by Mr. J. G. Purdon, President of the Chamber and Chairman of the Municipal Council, and there was a large attendance.

The Chairman opened the proceedings by saying:

Ladies and Gentlemen,—This meeting of the community is called for the purpose of taking such steps as may seem advisable with regard to the abominable anti-foreign publications that are issued in various parts of China, particularly in the province of Hunan. The subject has been so fully and powerfully laid before us all by the Reverend Griffith John and other missionaries whose position enables them to speak with authority, and so well treated in the local press, that I do not propose taking up your time by going at any length into it here. There can be no question but that these publications have had the effect intended of embittering the minds of the natives against all foreigners, and while we in Shanghai have escaped any trouble it is because the natives are aware that we have men-of-war in port, and a very efficient body of volunteers and police who could and would speedily put down any local riot. This does not make us indifferent to the sufferings that our fellow countrymen at other ports have gone through, or to the probability that they may have again to suffer, unless some very decided measures are taken by the Treaty Powers to show the Chinese that the present state of affairs cannot be permitted to continue; and it is to back up the efforts that have been made to this end, by the residents at other places, and to strengthen the hands of our Consular representatives in the steps that we may be sure that they have taken to bring the matter before the home Governments, that we are met here to-day. As I said, we in Shanghai have escaped actual outbreak, but it is evident to any one carefully observant, that the anti-foreign feeling is by no means absent. Straws show how the wind blows, and the greatly increased obstructiveness of the Chinese officials in every matter connected with these Settlements, and their evident desire to interfere in the affairs of the Settlements, unquestionably arise from feelings antagonistic to all foreigners; while at the same time any complaint against their own countrymen, laid before the officials, is contemptuously ignored. I may add that I sent one of these publications, one of which I have in my hand, some mails ago, to the Secretary of the China Association in London, to be made such use of as that body may see fit. The meeting is now ready to receive any resolution that may be offered.

Mr. R. W. Little—Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I wish, as I have no doubt you wish, that the moving of this resolution, copies of which have been distributed throughout the theatre, had been placed in stronger hands than mine; but the importance of the subject will, I hope, make up for my deficiencies. Most of you, I imagine, have copies of this resolution, but perhaps it will be in order if I read it to you. It is as follows:—

"That this general public meeting of Shanghai desires to express its full endorsement of the petitions sent to the Marquis of Salisbury and the President of the United States by the Hankow and Kiukiang communities on the subject of the recent anti-foreign riots in the Yangtze valley, and to support them in drawing the attention of the representatives of all the Treaty Powers at Peking and their respective Governments to the wide diffusion in Central China of virulent anti-foreign literature in the shape of placards, cartoons, pamphlets, and books, whereby the good relations that would otherwise subsist between China and foreigners have been and are seriously endangered; and to the unwillingness displayed by the Chinese authorities to put down this manifest evil by stopping this diffusion and punishing its promoters, although the authors and disseminators of the objectionable publications are perfectly well known to them. This meeting therefore hereby requests the Chairman to send a copy of the record of the proceedings to-day to the *Doyen* of the diplomatic body at Peking, requesting him to communicate the same to his colleagues, and beg them to join with him in laying this protest before his and their governments, that steps may be promptly taken to mitigate the evil complained of, and avert the serious consequences that may be otherwise expected."

I do not imagine that any exception can be taken to the general drift of this resolution, though perhaps there might be beneficial alterations in the wording of it. The main object of this meeting is to back up what has been done in Hankow, and later in Kiukiang. We owe to Hankow, and especially to the energy of Dr. Griffith John (applause), the detection of the source of these placards, pamphlets and books. The book which has been published in Hankow, containing a large number of these placards, was chiefly intended to be sent home to the governments and leading people there, so that they may realise what this anti-foreign propaganda is; and there have been, I understand, very few copies reserved for China. Through the kindness of the British and Foreign Bible Society here, I have been handed a large number of the placards, which perhaps some of you would like to vary the monotony of my speaking by looking at meanwhile; and I think you will see on looking at them that none of the language which has been used in describing these publications, of which these few are only a sample, has been exaggerated. If we were not concerned at all in this propaganda and its effects, I think it would still be our duty to support Hankow in what it has done. Not only are the river ports off-shoots from ourselves, but they are bound to us by all kinds of ties. They are dependent upon us commercially, as we are more or less dependent upon them; and the efforts

Hankow has made, through Dr. Griffith John, through Consul Gardner, and through the public meeting which it held, certainly deserve our support and our endorsement. We have been, as the Chairman has said, fortunately free from any actual outbreak, and we are likely to continue so, as long as we are as well defended as we are; but we must remember that, in the words of the Roman poet, it becomes our business when our neighbour's house is on fire. Last summer, perhaps many of you will remember, the riots came very near to us—within 25 or 30 miles. It is quite possible—indeed, it is more than possible, it is very probable—that if something is not done, similar riots will break out again this year. Without going so far as to believe, with the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, that there is a spirit of rebellion, and, more than that, an organised rebellion existing in the Yangtze valley, it is very certain there is an immense amount, among a certain class of the people, of unrest and readiness to break out in outrages. There is no doubt that if these publications of Chou Han and his accomplices have not caused these riots, they have been in many cases the spark which has set fire to material already prepared. In any civilised country, as the Hankow petition to Lord Salisbury pointed out such publications as these would be stopped at once by the Government, and although the Throne and Viceroys fulminate against them and declare that their authorship is punishable with death and that they will be repressed with the whole energy of the Government, we do not see that anything has been really done to stop Mr. Chou Han's work and that of his accomplices. It is our duty, both on account of Hankow and ourselves and general civilisation and progress in China, to do what we can to get this propaganda put down. We are not, in forwarding the minutes of this meeting, if this resolution is passed as I hope it will be, throwing or intending to throw any slight whatever on the exertions of our representatives at Peking. We know they have done and are doing their best, and we have every reason to believe that anything we do here will only strengthen their hands, and should not be received by them as throwing any blame upon them. So much has been already said, as the chairman remarked, in the press particularly and generally about this propaganda, about what it has done and what it will do if it is not stopped, that you will not expect me to go on at great length. I can only say I hope this large and representative meeting will pass this resolution—amending it if it likes—by acclamation, and that our action will not only be a satisfaction to our friends up the river, but be of benefit to the cause of civilisation in China and the safety of our fellow-countrymen throughout the Yangtze valley. With these few words, gentlemen, I place this resolution in your hands. (Applause.)

Mr. E. G. Low—In rising to second the resolution proposed by Mr. Little I do not intend to say more than a few words. The situation has been so clearly put in the forcible letters of the Hankow and Kiukiang communities that it is only left to us to give them our fullest and most unqualified endorsement, and this we do by the resolution before you. The thanks of all foreigners in China are greatly due to Dr. Griffith John for his ability and tenacity in ferretting out the true source of the publications which have caused so much evil. Hoping that our Home Governments will no longer remain blind to the necessity of taking the strong stand which their ignorance of the true state of affairs has hitherto prevented them from taking, I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Rev. Timothy Richard—I heartily support the resolution, both in the interest of foreigners and that of the Chinese. In the interest of foreigners, because innocent, law-abiding, useful and philanthropic residents, scattered widely throughout China, should no longer be left at the mercy of lawless mobs, still guided, unstopped, by such mandarins as Chou Han and his associates. In the interest of the Chinese, because delay in giving full protection and security to foreigners is the surest and speediest way of bringing about what the Chinese fear most—foreign war, and all its consequences. I therefore sincerely hope that this motion will be carried unanimously.

Mr. Herbert Smith—This important matter has been so ably dealt with by the previous speakers, that it is unnecessary for me to say anything further. It is certainly a subject of such grave moment to all sections of the foreign residents in China, that our protest cannot be too strongly brought to the notice of the Diplomatic Body at Peking. I heartily support the resolution.

Mr. A. McLeod—The able manner in which the proposer of this resolution brought the matter before this meeting leaves very little for me to say. I am only qualified to speak on the matter before us from one point of view—a merchant's; and I think we all admit that the prosperity of this place defends in a very large measure upon the peaceful course of trade. If these riots such as disturbed the valley of the Yangtze during last autumn are carried on, it is perfectly hopeless to expect trade to flourish; and from that point of view alone I think that, in a commercial community like Shanghai, the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce have acted very wisely in calling this meeting. I do not think I can add anything to what the proposer of this motion said. He went so fully into the subject that it leaves little else to say. I will therefore conclude by saying I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution. (Applause)

Rev. W. Muirhead—I think we have ground for serious complaint in the occasion of our meeting here this afternoon. The riots that have taken place in the interior of the country may well excite our deepest feelings; and we here express our sympathy with those who have been in the greatest danger. These riots I believe to be owing to the papers now referred to. Who is the author of them? Only a few parties, I believe, are engaged in the work; Hunanites they are called. But the Chinese are like a flock of sheep—easily led by those in a position of authority and influence over them; and the Hunanese at large are ready to follow in the wake of Chou Han and his colleagues. These papers speak for themselves. They are against all morals and propriety. They are full of lies as well as vile aspersions on foreigners and on missionaries in particular. It behoves us to take action in the matter. As has been already said, those in the interior of China look to Shanghai as the hub of the whole country, and very much will depend upon the course which we take and upon the influence that we exert. Are we not moved by the deepest concern for the welfare and safety of our countrymen and of our countrywomen in the interior? (Applause.) We know what has taken place in consequence of these papers, and, as has been already remarked, we know not what may follow as a still further consequence. To a very large extent it is in our hands to put down these vicious and vile publications. If we use the influence which it is in our power to exert, I am sure Chou Han and his companions can be easily laid hold of and brought to a very severe issue in regard to punishment for the vile conduct which he has shown.—Not that we are anxious to be avenged in any way; but in view of the high interests at stake, it would be well for this community unanimously to follow in the wake of this resolution, and do our very utmost to influence the authorities at home and the authorities at Peking to suppress these publications, that we may live here and elsewhere in peace and quietness. Speaking as a missionary, I would do nothing at all. It is very strange that in the early days of Christianity, charges similar to those which have been brought against missionaries and others in the papers referred to were universally made; but they were answered by those whom we have the honour of calling the Early Christian Fathers I suggest that the missionaries should answer these charges in a similar manner. But we are not all missionaries, and we are on a pleasant and agreeable footing with the Government of this country. We have entered into friendly relationships with it, and it behoves us to show in a strong and determined way that we will not submit to the publication and diffusion of such unprincipled, immoral and untrue papers as seem to be so widely circulated. (Applause.) I hope that this gathering of friends in Shanghai will support the missionaries in the interior and the friends who are there at large, in order to put down these vicious and vile papers; and I hope that ere long we shall hear no more about them. (Applause.)

Rev. Geo. W. Hunter (China Inland Mission)—I should not have risen to-day had not Mr. Muirhead used a word that included me in what he said. He said we were unanimously of opinion that the steps proposed should be taken. I differ from that, and, having an opinion on the matter, cannot content myself with giving a silent vote. One of the gentlemen said he could only speak as a member of the mercantile community in this matter. I can only speak here as a missionary; as one who has come out in the interests of the Gospel, to spread that Gospel. I agree of course with every word that has been said about the character of these publications. They are vile and untrue beyond all characterising; but we cannot but remember that we come out to take these things cheerfully. We come out to love and to bless them that curse us and pray for those that despitefully use us. We are called upon here to urge the authorities to take steps to stay this evil and have its promoters punished; and Mr. Muirhead hinted at that in no very indirect terms. The newspaper this morning gave us a reminder as to what that meant. There was one very excellent article supporting the object of this meeting, and another told us what punishment of offenders meant in Chinese eyes. The danger is that if we take this step, we are leading ourselves into these consequences. I represent a mission that has a great many members in the interior, and we do not take the position Mr. Muirhead suggests at all, and that our friends at Hankow and elsewhere suggest. We believe that in the interests of the Gospel and in spite of danger to ourselves, this evil is better left as it is. I do not move an amendment, not having seen the resolution before; but for the sake of the Gospel and missionaries and for the winning over of Hunan, when this resolution is put, I shall certainly say no.

The Chairman then put the resolution and it was carried, Mr. Hunter alone holding up his hand in dissent.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Purdon for his able and courteous conduct in the chair.

No. 149.

✓ one copy of Customs Gazette to Mess
✓ one Copy to Mr. Scanlan
✓ Light House Reports & Hydrographic Survey rept Navy May 5 1892

DIPLOMATIC
MAY 5 1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 5 1892
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 16th, 1892.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Forwards Chinese Customs publications

No. 1491.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 16th 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward, under separate cover, duplicate copies of the "List of the Chinese Lighthouses, Light-vessels, Buoys and Beacons, for 1892"; and also duplicate copies of the "Customs Gazette, No. XCII October - December 1891."

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Give to Press
Ack by subject + file.
MAY 6 1892 agk

Furnished [illegible]

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 9 1892

No. 1492

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 21. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 5 1892
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The recent Riots in Mongolia.

Synopsis

Official account thereof enclosed. The report of Viceroy Li commented on. The rebellion is extinct.

No. 1492

Legation of the United States,
Peking March 21. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of an Imperial Decree which gives an official account of the recent riots and rebellion in Mongolia. This Decree is founded on a report made by Li Hung Chang and Kweipin, the military Governor of Jehol, on the conduct of the civil and military authorities before and during the disturbances. From this report, it appears that there had been, for a long time, strained relations between the Chinese settlers and the native Mongols on the one hand, and between the Christians and the non-christians on the other. For a number of years this condition of animosity became more and more accentuated. The local officials are very severely criticized for not taking measures to secure peace and, it is said, that "no mercy whatever can be extended to them." The rising first took place in Chao-yang-hsien, but attained its greatest extent in Ping-chuan-chow and Chien-chang-hsien. The Mongol population suffered most but a missionary station was burnt down and some native Christians were murdered. These outrages against Christians were committed by native religious sects. Crowds flocked to the standards of these sects and the emeute assumed the proportions of a local rebellion against public authority. It having been stated as an excuse for the outrages against the Christians that many corpses of children had been found, in the cellars of the Mission buildings, without eyes or hearts, this matter was fully investigated. It has been proved that the report of the Magistrate to this effect is absolutely false, and he is severely censured for making such a mistatement. It will be seen that the enclosed Decree follows substantially the report of the Viceroy Li. The officials through whose negligence the riots took place have been cashiered and banished. The rebellion is now extinct. It is said that twenty thousand lives have been taken.

No foreigner was injured.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Denby

One enclosure.
Imperial Decree of the 27th and 28th January 1892.

27th and 28th January.

PUNISHMENT OF OFFICIALS FOR NEGLECT IN CONNECTION WITH THE INSURRECTION IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Decree. We are in receipt of a memorial from Li Hung-chang and K'uei-pin denouncing, in pursuance of Imperial instruction, the District officers responsible for the capture of Ch'aoyang and other towns. The recent rising was first set on foot at Ch'aoyang by marauders from Jehol; the department of P'ingch'üan and the district of Chiench'ang encountered the brunt of the rebel movement, and the Mongol country suffered very severely. In addition to all this, the chapels of the Catholics were burnt and their converts murdered. The magistrates of the two departments in question were uniformly remiss and careless in the execution of their duty, with the result that the criminal element in the community got an opportunity of inflaming the popular feeling and bringing about a grave catastrophe. Were the letter of the law touching official responsibility applied to their case, no mercy could be extended to them. The inquiry which has been instituted into the case of the Ch'aoyang Magistrate, Liao Lun-ming, shows that although he did not, as was alleged, make his escape as soon as he received intelligence of the rising, he habitually neglected the interests of the people and spent his time in tippling and verse-making. He had also on frequent occasions contracted loans from the wealthy people in his district and was deeply embarrassed. So depraved was he and so unworthy of public trust that when he was transferred from Ch'ihfêng to Ch'aoyang, the people of the former place tried to prevent him from leaving in his insolvent condition.

Chang Tsou-k'ai, the Magistrate of Chiench'ang, did not take the slightest precaution to avert trouble when the feud first broke out, and later on he failed to furnish an accurate account of the circumstances connected with the pillage and massacre which took place at Sanshihchiatzu. His object was to evade responsibility by adopting a policy based upon craft and deceit. The acting Magistrate of P'ingch'üan, Wên Pu-nien, is notorious for his trickery and is an adept at making out a plausible defence when he gets into trouble. The Catholic premises were in a street in the town and yet he failed to make any real effort for their protection. He exaggerated enormously the number of the rebels and gave hasty credence to false rumours in connection with the outrage upon the missionary establishment. His reports were false and his proclamation had a most disquieting effect on the minds of the people. The three officials above mentioned have by their grasping, deceitful and utterly depraved conduct brought the most grievous harm upon the district. The memorialists recommend that Liao Lun-ming should be cashiered and never again employed in the public service and that Chang Tsou-k'ai and Wên Pu-nien should be degraded and their services dispensed with. This sentence we consider too light and we hereby command that all three be cashiered and banished. The other proposals contained in the memorial are approved.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 5 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 6 1892

No. 1493
Legation of the United States,
Peking. March 22 1892.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject + file
MAY 6 1892

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Audiences and Receptions

Synopsis
It is unlikely that the Foreign Representatives will be invited to a reception by the Emperor this Spring.

No. 1493.

Legation of the United States
Peking, March 22. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 1471 of the 3d ultimo, I had the honor to inform you that the Audience and Reception questions had been discussed by the foreign Representatives at a meeting held January 30. last, and that no decision had been arrived at.
On the 6th ultimo another meeting took place, whereat, in order, if possible, to relieve the Russian and French Ministers, who had refused to accept audience anywhere except at the palace proper, from

their embarrassing position, it was agreed that we should make a proposition to the Yamên to the effect that we would go to the New Hall, the Cheng Kuang Tien, this year if audiences and receptions should be agreed to be held hereafter in the palace. This proposition was presented in personal interviews and in writing, without effect. The Yamên declined to present the question to the Throne — because the Prince and Ministers denied that it would be derogatory to us to be received in the new Hall, and it was incompatible with usage and ceremony to receive foreigners in the palace proper. They were careful to say, however, that they did not lay this down as a permanent rule.

It is unnecessary to trouble

you with copies of all the papers in which this matter was discussed; they will be preserved for reference here. I send, however, (enclosed) a copy of a memorandum prepared by the Dean, which presents some interesting arguments on the general question. It seems likely now that the Emperor will not send to the foreign Representatives an invitation to a reception this Spring.

There are no indications that he will take any action whatever. I regret the course that events have taken.

In my opinion personal and social intercourse between the high officials and the members of the Diplomatic Body should be cultivated. Mutual acquaintance will tend to do away with national and race prejudice, and cannot fail to enhance the respect of the Chinese officials for foreigners. It seems that the unfortunate course adopted by the French and Russian Ministers has temporarily, at least, tended to impair courteous and friendly relations which have been slowly and carefully built up during thirty years.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One enclosure.
Memorandum of the Dean of the Diplomatic Body.

Memorandum.

The reception by a sovereign of the envoys accreditted to him by other sovereigns or chiefs of nations has always been considered as one of the most important international functions devolving upon the ruler of a state. In former times the want of proper consideration and respect shewn by the ruler of a nation to an envoy from another nation, always considered as an international discourtesy, has often led to long and bloody wars, which might easily have been avoided by a little forethought and attention. Even today such an act would very likely bring about an estrangement between the nations concerned which, at a given moment, might produce even greater political consequences. The mightier the sovereign or State by which the offence is committed the more likely will the act be put down as an international and not accidental one and be ascribed to arrogance and a feeling of superiority which in the present state of political international intercourse is strictly avoided as being contrary to the generally recognized rule of ceremonial equality between sovereign States. Foreign Representatives are generally received in the apartments of the palaces usually employed for audiences and solemn receptions. Where an exception from this takes place it is in those cases in which a sovereign or chief of a nation happens to be absent from his principal place of residence. As, however, not only the Representatives of friendly Powers but very often all the members of the Diplomatic Body are invited to all the State and Court ceremonies at which specially reserved and honorable places are assigned to them, these rare exceptions from the general rule cannot be regarded as constituting a precedent in favor of a nation which while excluding foreign Representatives from Court and State ceremonies would claim the right of excluding them also from the apartments generally used for grand official receptions under pretext that the sovereign or ruler lived in another part of the palace grounds as those containing those appartments. This state of things exists in China. The foreign Representatives and members of the Diplomatic Body are excluded from all participation in state and in

Court ceremonies; they approach the sovereign only on the occasion of the presentation of their Letters of Credence or Recall, when they have autograph letters from their sovereigns and rulers to present, or at New year, when the members of the Diplomatic Body offer their congratulations to His Majesty. Under these circumstances it is absolutely necessary that on these rare occasions the audiences and receptions should be arranged in such a manner that even evil disposed persons could find nothing to cavil at nor to draw from the manner or place of reception conclusions unfavorable to the dignity of the foreign Representatives or the intentions of the Chinese Government. Rightly or wrongly the conviction has been gaining ground that the fact that the places so far designated for the reception of the foreign Representatives and the Diplomatic Body were all outside of the palace proper, while p. ex. the New Year's reception of the Chinese high Officials always takes place there, indicated, on the part of the Chinese Government, a settled determination to exclude the foreign Representatives from what may be called the interior of the palace, and therefore, if persisted in, be equivalent to an attempt of lowering them and the Governments they represent in the eyes of the Chinese Officials classes and the people at large and thus produce effects the importance of which it would be wrong to underrate. The events of the last summer during which certain members of the better, educated, classes of Chinese have shewn such unreasonable hatred of every thing foreign make it absolutely necessary that the impression above mentioned should not be allowed to spread but should be put down by the action of the Chinese Government itself. The question of the place where the foreign Representatives and the Members of the Diplomatic Body are to be received in future possesses, therefore, an undoubted importance. Foreign Governments are entitled to expect that the steps decided upon on this occasion by the Chinese Government will be taken in the friendliest spirit and with the intention of doing away in the future with every cause of misunderstanding and apprehension. The Edict issued by His Majesty on the 12th Dec. 1890. must certainly be considered as an expression of the wish on the part of His Majesty to foster and render more and more intimate and friendly the relations so happily existing between China and the foreign Powers. It would be, indeed, deeply to be regretted if the good effect already produced was to be destroyed by a refusal to admit the foreign Representatives into the palace proper, thus strengthening the belief of the masses in the objections supposed to be entertained by the Chinese Government against such a step. The enlightened wisdom of H. M. will certainly know how to avoid this danger and to remove, by ordering that in future the audiences and receptions of the foreign Representatives and the Diplomatic Body shall take place in the palace proper, all doubts as to His August intentions and the course He intends to pursue in His relations with foreign Powers.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File. abb
MAY 6 1892

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 6 1892

No. 1494
Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 22. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 5 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Sacred Edict.

Synopsis.

The Diplomatic Body refuses to ask that parts thereof be suppressed. The Minister thinks it useless to present the question alone.

No. 1494

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 22, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 1483 of March 5, I gave some account of a book called "The Sacred Edict," and stated that I thought it would not be unwise or improper to request the Tsung-li Yamên to procure an order that the phrases therein, which reflect on Christianity should not be read in public places twice a month as is now done. Yesterday, at a meeting of the Diplomatic Corps, this question came up for discussion. I urgently pressed the subject on my colleagues, but was overruled. The argument was made that substantially the objectionable phrases meant only that the Christian religion was not orthodox, and that it would be impossible to induce the Government to suppress any portion of so old and revered a book.

There is considerable force in these objections. At all events it would be utterly useless for any Minister singly to present this question. The absence of support from his Colleagues would be taken as signifying their opposition or indifference, and the request would certainly be refused.

I have, therefore, concluded to take no action on the subject.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 6 1892

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAY 5 1892
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Ack by subject, awaiting promised copy of note to the Yamen. AAA
MAY 6 1892

No 1495.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 22nd, 1892.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Likin

Synopsis

Some general remarks thereon. The action of the authorities at Canton complained of.

1

No 1495.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 22nd, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The question of likin has been very often discussed by my predecessors and myself. It is the most important commercial question with which the foreign representative in China has to deal, and, therefore, in view of recent events, I beg to offer a few observations thereon.

No scheme for injury to foreign

commerce could have been devised which would compare in efficiency with this system of internal taxation. When we look at the immense extent and fertility of China it will be readily seen that the foreign imports, which in 1890 amounted to Hk. Tls 127-093-481 (U.S. currency $161.408-720-87), bear a small proportion to the amount that ought reasonably to be expected. I do not mean to say that foreign trade was entirely represented by this sum, because there was a great trade in junks, but this sum is the value of goods carried in foreign bottoms.

Roughly speaking China has 400.000.000 people. It's extent is 1.350.000 square miles. It's population is, on the average, 288 per square mile. If there were no artificial barriers to the sending of foreign goods into the interior, foreign trade would assume immense proportions.

Likin was devised in China about sixty years ago, to meet temporary necessities. It has now become the favorite weapon of the Chinese for the crippling of foreign commerce. All the routes pursued by trade, whether by land or water, are interspersed at frequent intervals by barriers at which an internal tax is collected. I have seen it stated that between Canton and Pesé, on the West River, there are one hundred customs barriers in a distance of nine hundred miles.

A partial remedy for these difficulties was provided in the Chefoo Convention and in our treaty of 1858 (See Treaties 1776–1887 p.177). By this treaty merchandise, imported to or exported from the interior, might pay one half duty and be absolved from payment of likin. The duty on foreign goods imported thus in the average was 7½ *per cent*. To entitle foreign goods brought from the interior to "transit passes", they must be intended for export.

It is plain that this restriction is injurious, because the benefits of the local trade, which is vastly greater than the foreign trade, are thereby denied to foreigners. Another objection is that the transit passes cover the goods only to the exact point named and not to points of redistribution. The Chinese officials, in some cases, in order to discourage the use of transit passes and to secure the payment of likin to themselves, have reduced it to a point below 2½ per cent.

Native merchants, on the other hand, have sometimes shipped sugar from Swatow to Hongkong and then brought it back to China as a foreign article, by which scheme it has avoided likin. I notice that something of the same character was recently done in the United States in order to save freight.

Likin difficulties are becoming so numerous in various parts of China that a radical change of the system is desirable, but it is by no means certain that any change can be effected.

As to opium, you are well

aware that, by the Additional Articles to the Chefoo Convention, signed at London July 18th 1885, it is provided that this article shall pay a tariff duty of 30 taels per chest of 100 catties, and 80 taels per like chest as likin, and shall thenceforth be subject to no other tax when transported into the interior. If such an arrangement could be made as to all foreign goods it would result in great benefit to foreign trade, would prevent many local disturbances and would give security to the introduction of foreign imports into the interior.

Singularly when this scheme was inserted, some years ago, in what is called the "Alcock Convention", the Boards of Trade and the merchants generally opposed it and secured it's rejection. They then preferred to rely on the transit pass system and were not willing to submit to any additional burden on trade.

With the experience now before the mercantile community, I believe that it would be willing to sanction the payment of a fixed sum as likin, in addition to the tariff duty. At the meeting of the diplomatic body hereinafter mentioned, it seemed to be the general impression that good would result from such a change.

If the present system, as provided for in the treaties, were acted up to by the local authorities, there would be a measure of satisfaction but, notoriously, every possible hindrance is made to the use of transit passes. Ingrained in the Chinese nature, official and private, is the love of a "squeeze", which the transit pass system prevents, as the tax is collected by the foreign customs.

I have received from the Consul at Canton, Mr. Seymour, quite recently, three despatches detailing action of the local authorities hostile to the transit pass system. On the 19th inst., I received from him a telegram which reads as follows: "Since "January transit pass trade "squelched by likin notices "seizures, arrests with Viceroy's "approval".

In one of these despatches he informs me that nine hundred cases of American kerosene, though covered by transit passes, had been required to pay 20c per case likin at the point of destination. This lot of kerosene was the property of a British firm, nevertheless, as it is an American product, I am justifiable in taking action.

In another despatch he

informs me that, in 1891, there were sent from Canton to the interior about 3.000.000 gallons of kerosene, and through Pakhoi about 170.000, making in all 3.170.000 gallons.

The refusal of transit passes to some extent imperils this great trade. Of course, such refusal does not necessarily destroy the trade, because it has shown that it possesses vitality and would probably survive the imposition of likin dues.

I mention, en passant, that the authorities have concocted at Canton a new device to injure the foreign carrying trade. They have reduced export duties on goods carried in native junks, and thereby aroused the ire of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, but this matter must be reserved for a separate despatch if one be necessary.

Mr. Seymour urgently requests, in a despatch sent to the Department, of which he forwarded a copy to me, that the whole diplomatic body should take up the question of transit passes, the question being of common interest etc. On receipt of this telegram and these despatches, I had a consultation with the Dean and procured him to call

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a meeting of the foreign representatives for the 21st inst., to take appropriate action. This meeting took place yesterday. The French, German and British ministers had received despatches and telegrams similar to mine.

The meeting resolved that identic notes should be sent to the Yamên, complaining of the action of the likin authorities at Canton and demanding that the transit pass system should be maintained in full force. A copy of the said note will be forwarded to you.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 5 1892
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Ack. by Number and File.
MAY 6 1892
aab

No. 1496
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 22. 1892.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 6 1892

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Differential Duties at Canton

Synopsis.

Canton authorities have directed that goods shipped in native junks shall pay less export duty than those shipped in foreign bottoms. This discrimination is denounced.

No. 1496
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 22. 1892

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the local authorities at Canton some ten days ago ordered that all goods shipped at Canton on native junks should pay a smaller export duty than goods in foreign bottoms. The effect of this rule was to deprive the Steamboat lines plying between Canton and Hong Kong, which are owned by foreigners, of a large portion of the carrying trade. Protests against this action were made by the Hong Kong

Chamber of Commerce, and were sent to Lord Salisbury who ordered H.B.M's Minister here to take up the question.
As the foreign tariff is not technically interfered with, and the reduction applies to the native tariff only, an interesting question was involved.
Sir John Walsham discussed the question with me.
I advised him that in spirit, at least, such a discrimination was contrary to the third article of the American Treaty of 1880 – see Treaties 1776-1887, p. 184. This article reads as follows:—

"His Imperial Majesty
"the Emperor of China
"hereby promises and agrees
"that no other kind or
"higher rate of tonnage dues
"or duties for imports or
"exports or coastwise trade

"shall be imposed or
"levied in the open
"ports of China upon
"vessels wholly belong-
"ing to citizens of the
"United States or upon
"the produce, manu-
"factures, or merchan-
"dise imported in the
"same from the United
"States or from any
"foreign country, or
"upon the produce,
"manufactures, or
"merchandise exported
"in the same to the
"United States, or any
"foreign country or
"transported in the same
"from one open port of
"China to another, than
"are imposed or levied
"on vessels or cargoes
"of any other nation, or
"on those of Chinese subjects."

While it might be argued that the foreign tariff is not at all changed by reducing export duties in the native tariff, still it is plain that such reduction operates exactly as if the foreign tariff were increased, and secures a great advantage to the owners of native junks. If goods shipped on native junks were to pay no export duty it is plain that all goods would be shipped on native junks to the exclusion of foreign bottoms. It is always desirable in construing a treaty to look at instruments contemporaneous with the execution of the treaty. Following this rule in this case I found at pages 198, 199, of Foreign Relations 1881, the history of the preparation and adoption of article 3, of the Treaty of 1880 above referred to.

He

The existence of the two tariffs, the foreign and native, is mentioned by the Commissioners. The dangers of abuse of the native tariff are discussed. The article, which was proposed by the Chinese Commissioners, was agreed to by the American Commissioners on two grounds:

1st because, it makes the Imperial Government directly responsible to us for any maladministration in the Chinese Customs of which we may have reason to complain;

2d, a treaty stipulation like this tends to diminish the power of provincial officers and to increase that of the Imperial — authorities.

I think that it is fair to conclude that the action taken by the Canton authorities is contrary to

the Treaty.
Sir John Walsham had, on the 20th instant, an interview with the Yamên, and complained of the action stated and believes that the action of the Canton authorities will be rescinded

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

File

DIPL

MAY 14 1892

No. 1497

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 24. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1892
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acknowledges Despatches.

No. 1497
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 24. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:-

No. 695. January 29.
" 696 " "
" 697 " "
" 698 February 4, and
Cir. " 1, enclosing

an invitation from the "Honorable Secretary of State "to the foreign governments "to send such representatives "as they may deem appro-"priate to participate in "the ceremonies of dedicating

"the buildings of the World's
"Columbian Exposition, in
"the City of Chicago on the
"11th, 12th, and 13th of October
"1892."

Charles Denby.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

File

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 14 1892

No. 1498
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 29. 1892

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Copy to Mr Blair 21 Mar 93

Subject

Directions to forward to Yamên copy of Despatch No. 659 complied with.

No. 1498

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 29. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a telegram from the Hon. Asst. Secretary of State, as follows:- "If you have not already communicated instructions six fifty nine October six to the Chinese Government do so immediately". In obedience to this telegram I have transmitted to the Foreign Office an English copy and a Chinese translation of the despatch therein referred to, being your despatch No 659 of Octr. 6'91 together with -

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a communication of which a copy is, herewith, enclosed.

As the original despatch contained no directions to hand copy to the Foreign Office, I concluded that the communication had been transmitted through the Chinese Minister at Washington and for that reason only did not transmit a translation to the Foreign Office.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Denby

One enclosure
Mr. Denby to the Foreign Office.

Copy.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 28. 1892

Your Highness, and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor by the directions of my Government to enclose to Your Highness and Your Excellencies a copy of the English text, with a Chinese translation, of a despatch received from the Hon. Secretary of State relating to the refusal of the Government of China to receive Hon. Henry W. Blair as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to China. The question presented is one of great importance. It has been fully discussed by the Hon. Secretary of State. I will be pleased to transmit to my Government the answer of Your Highness

and Your Excellencies to this
communication.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copies for the President & Secretary May 17.92
MAY 14 1892

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 16 1892

by Number and File

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1892
RECEIVED.

No 1499.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 29th, 1892.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —
Suppression Mongolian rebellion

— Synopsis. —
Prince and Ministers thanks
President for kind message sent.

No 1499.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 29th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

In compliance with the instructions contained in your No 697, of January 29th 1892, I sent to the Tsungli Yamen a note expressing the satisfaction with which the President and people of the United States had learned of the suppression of the rebellion in Mongolia, and received a reply thereto wherein the Prince and Ministers, on behalf of the

Chinese Government, desired me to Express to the President their sincere thanks for the kind message sent.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 14 1892

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1892
RECEIVED.

To Mr. Davis —
Chicago
16 May

No 1500.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 29th, 1892.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —
World's Columbian Exposition.

— Synopsis —
Mr. Peng Kuang Yü, second secretary of Chinese Legation at Washington appointed to represent China at dedication of buildings on October 11th, 12th, and 13th 1892.

No 1500.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 29th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

Agreeable with the instructions contained in your circular letter of February 1st, 1892, I addressed a note to the Foreign office extending an invitation to China to send representatives to participate in the ceremonies of dedicating the buildings of the Worlds Columbian Exposition in the City of Chicago, on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of October next.

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I have the honor to inform you, that the Prince and Ministers have written to me stating that, the Chinese Minister at Washington, has been directed to appoint Mr. Peng Kuang Yü, Second Secretary of the Chinese Legation to represent China on the occasion referred to.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant.
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1892
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 22 1892

No. 1501

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 29. 1892

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack by subject & file
MAY 14 1892

24 June

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject.

Likin Questions

Synopsis

Identic note sent to the Tsungli Yamên on likin questions at Canton enclosed.

No. 1501.

Legation of the United States,
Peking March 29. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 1495, March 22. last, wherein I inform you that I will forward to you a copy of an identic note sent by the foreign Representatives to the Yamên on the likin questions that have arisen at Canton,

I have now the honor to enclose a copy of said identic note.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure. Identic note to Yamên

No. 1

Mr. Denby to Tsungli Yamên.

March 26. 1892.

Your Highness and Your Excellencies:-

The American Consul at Canton has forwarded to me copies of two proclamations issued by the Likin office at that place, offering rewards for the arrest of some Chinese in the service of foreign firms, for having made a fraudulent use of "Transit Passes".

Copies of these proclamations wh. were issued Jany. 26 and Febry. 18, respectively, I have the honor to enclose. Furthermore, complaints have reached me from Canton that likin was levied on imports sent into the Interior under "Transit Passes" as well as an extra "lo-ti-shui" after such imports had reached their destination. Lastly a few days ago I received —

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a telegram from the American Consul at Canton informing me that in consequence of the action of the Likin officials and the refusal of the Governor General to listen to the demands for redress made by the foreign Consuls, the trade under Transit Passes had entirely ceased and thus serious harm had been done to the general import trade. With reference to these facts Your Highness and Your Excellencies will allow me to draw your attention to Sect. III Art. IV of the Chefoo Convention, and rule 7 of the Convention for the Regulation of Trade concluded between China and the United States in 1858, under which Chinese and foreigners alike are entitled to use Transit Passes for the transport of imports into the interior; it is therefore difficult to understand how Chinese could fraudulently use Transit Passes for imports to the use of which they are legally entitled.

The levy of likin on imports under Transit Passes on their way to the interior is forbidden by Treaty. The action of the likin officials and the failure of the Governor General to grant redress when appealed to by the Consuls must therefore be considered as a serious infraction of the provisions of the Treaties, and will entitle foreign merchants to claim heavy damages for the hindrances thrown into the way of the import trade in foreign goods.

In order to avoid such claims and the unpleasant negotiations to which they would give rise, I have the honor to request Y. H. and Y. Exc. to issue, without delay, telegraphic instructions to the Governor General of the two Kuangs to order the likin office to withdraw the two proclamations above mentioned, as

likely to cause the impression
as if Chinese were forbidden the
use of Transit Passes for imports,
and to cease the levy of illegal
taxes on imports protected by
Transit Passes, either in transitu
or after their arrival at their
destination, without making a
difference on account of the
nationality of the persons possessing and carrying such imports.
I must further request Y. H.
and Y. Ex. to instruct the Governor
General by telegraph to render
public by proclamation the
orders thus issued to the likin
office in order to allay the
apprehension and incertitude
caused by the latter's action
I shall, at the same time cause
the American Consul to forward to
me an account of all the losses suffered already or incurred afterwards
by American Merchants through the
action of the likin office

for the amount of which losses I must hold the Chinese Government responsible.

(Sd) Charles Denby

File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

MAY 14 1892

No. 1502.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1892
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 29th, 1892.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Report on coinage.

No. 1502.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 29th, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In reply to your circular of Dec. 7th last, requesting information as to production, coinage, etc. of precious metals, I have the honor to state that I have this day forwarded to the Director of the Mint replies to the interrogatories therein proposed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 16 1892

No. 1503
Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 30. 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAY 13 1892
RECEIVED.

To R S Williams
26 July

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Ans'd July 27/92

Subject

Proposed New Office Buildings at Peking.

Synopsis.

Plans thereof enclosed.

No. 1503

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 30. 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

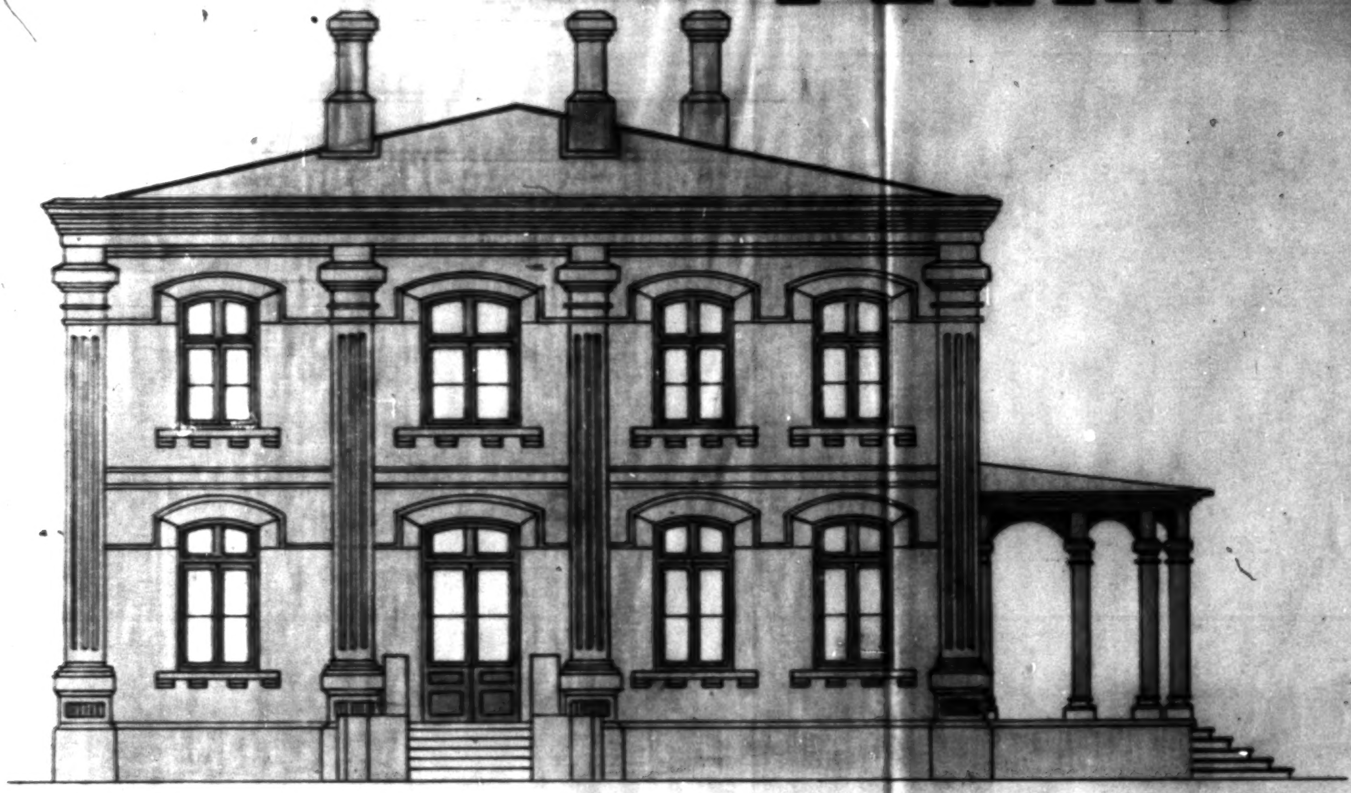
Referring to my despatches Nos. 1279 and 1352 of April 1st and July 21st 1891, respectively, both relating to the building of new offices on the property occupied by this Legation, I have now the honor to enclose tracings of the ground plans and elevations of the proposed buildings. The local agent of the owners and I have agreed on the plans. A copy will be sent by the agent to the owners, who will, no doubt, confer with you on the subject.

Accurate estimates have not been made, but it is supposed that the new building will cost about $6,000 gold.

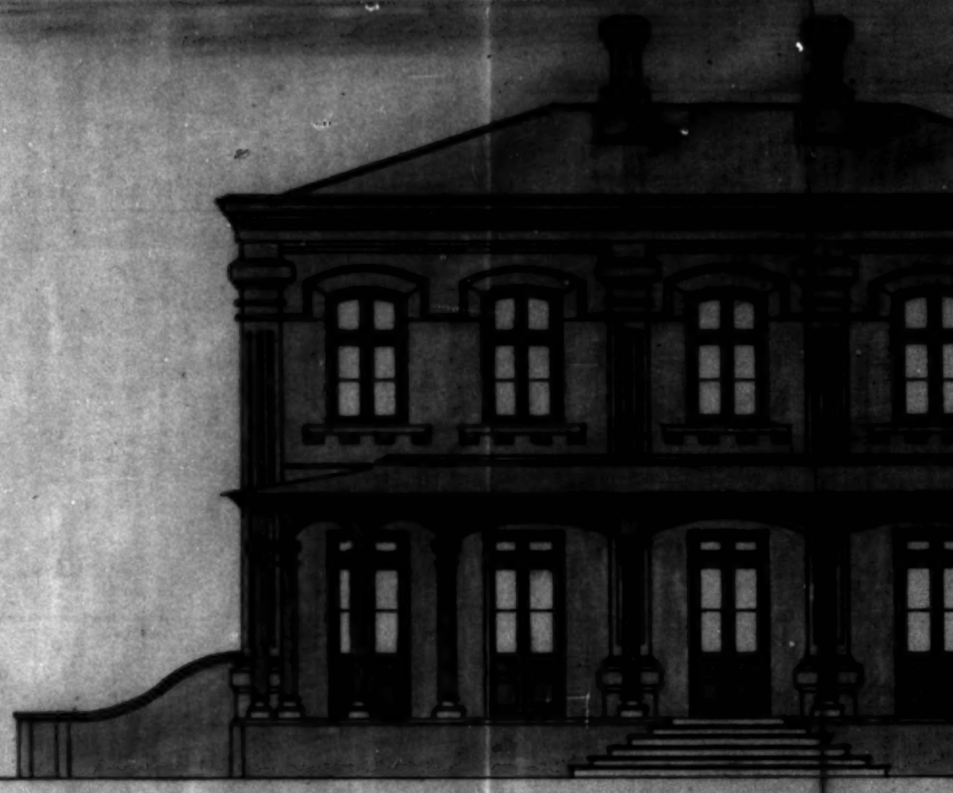
I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure
Plans of proposed new office in the Legation.

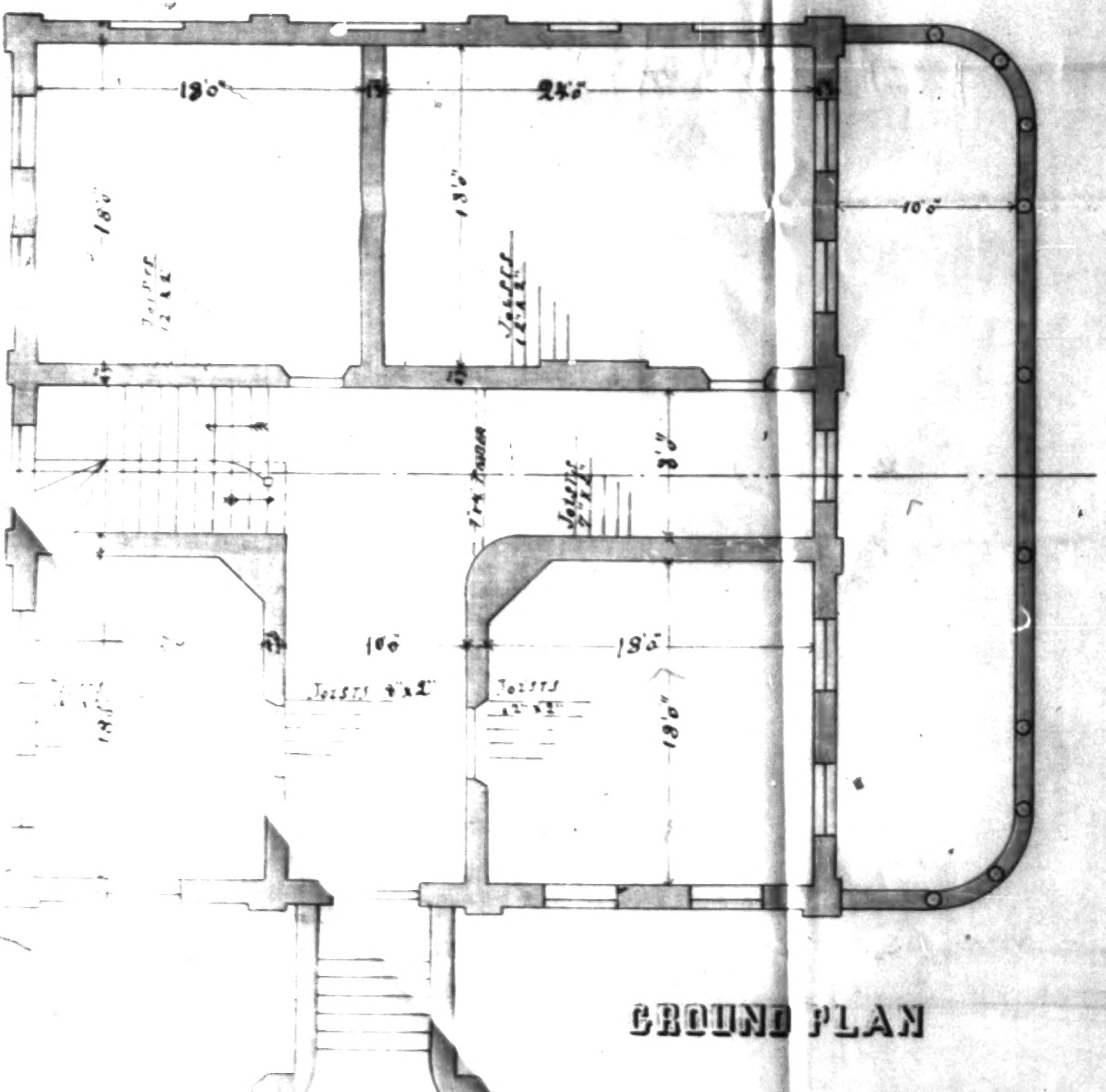
U S LEGATION OFFICES
PEKING



FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION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24'6"
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10'0"
Joists 12"x2"
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8'0"
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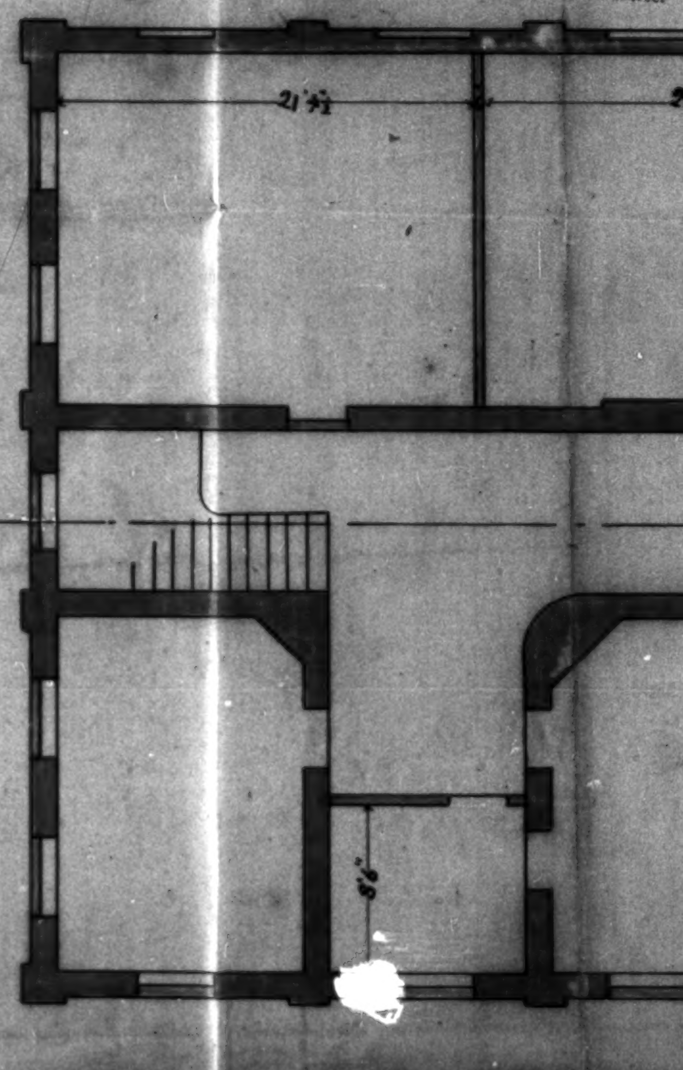
16'0"
18'5"
Joists 4"x2"
18'0"

GROUND PLAN



1ST FLOOR PLA

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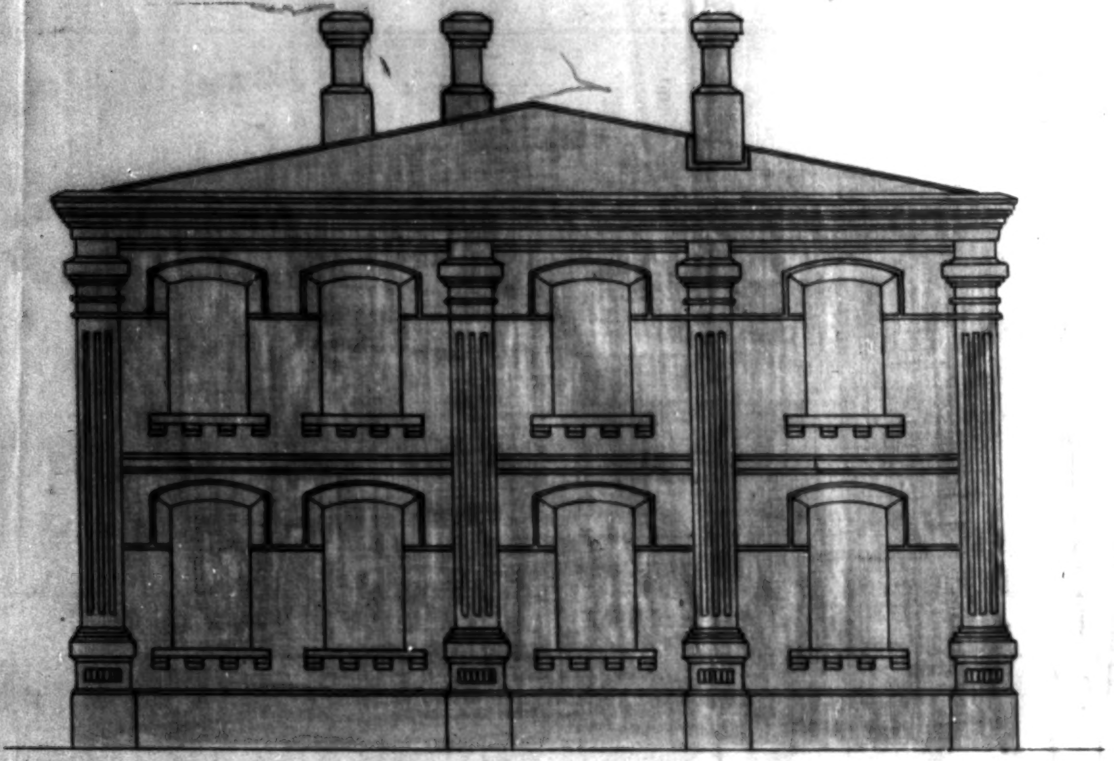
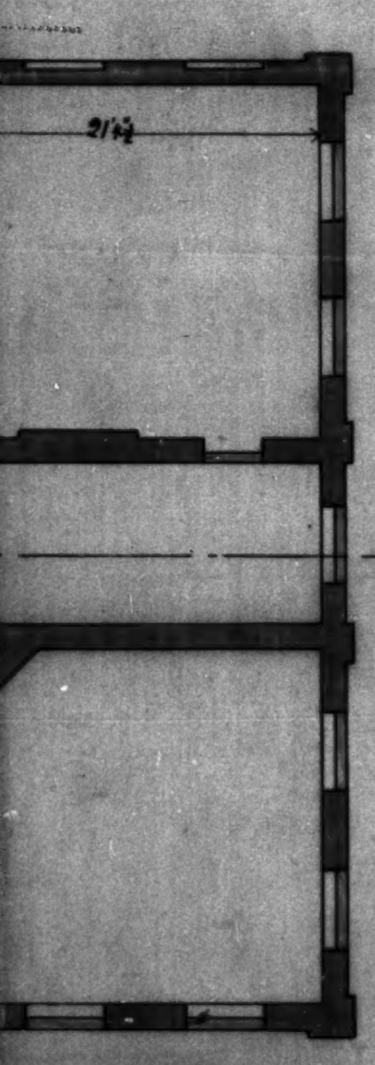


BACK ELEVATION



PLAN

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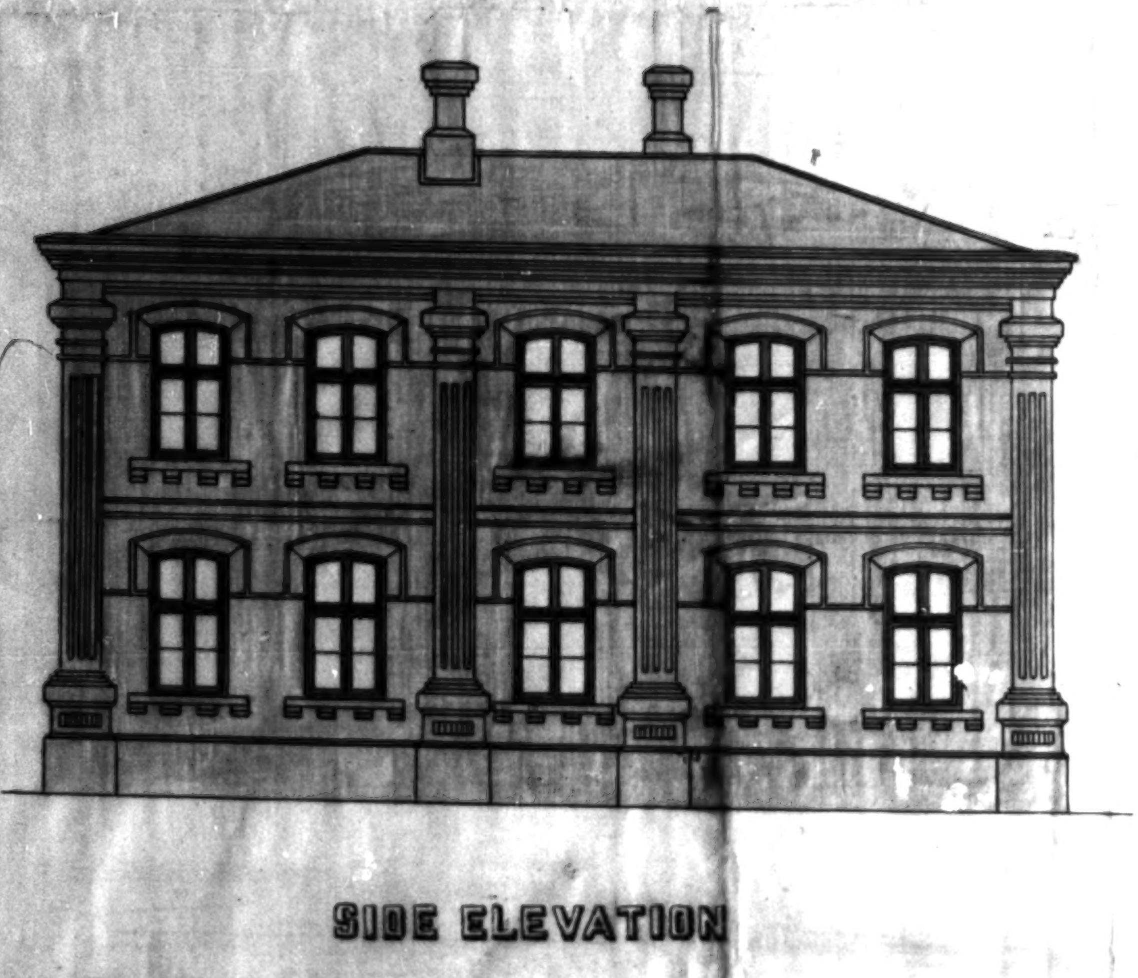

SIDE ELEVATION

A. W. Harvey Billingham
Architect
Tientsin.